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THE IDEA

A SIGN OF THE TIMES

Vol. III June, 1909 No. 1

BEING SOME SERMONETTES PUBLISHED WEEKLY AT RICHMOND AND LYNCHBURG, VIRGINIA, AND GOTTEN UP FOR THE PUBLIC GOOD

ANYWHEN
ANYHOW
ANYWHERE

AS THE
SPIRIT
MOVES

ADON A. YODER, Editor and Publisher, 910 Capital St., Richmond, Va.

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v. 3

MAY I BE HE?

May I, my Blue Eyes, meet with thee to-night?
When ring the vesper chimes may I be he
Who in thine azure-tinted light shall wend
His way across the hills to hear with thee
The messenger of God?

May I be he—
The vespers o'er—to walk with thee alone
Back o'er the hills, and sit with thee awhile?
And as the moon in pensive majesty
Doth drop her mellow light between the leaves,
May I be he to catch the words which drop
As sweet as honey from thy lips to me?
Thine answer "yea" will bring me joy to-night.

—*Alyn O'Dare.*

THE IDEA

A Sign of the Times

VOL. III JUNE 5, 1909 NO. I

5 CENTS A COPY $2.00 A YEAR

Published Weekly on Saturday by ADON A. YODER,
910 Capitol Street, Richmond, Va.

The Idea will stand for everything that is pure and wholesome, no matter what may befall. We know full well that the publication of this number, with its pointed attack on vice in the shape of crooked political evils and bar-rooms and houses of ill fame, is not calculated to benefit the finances of this little affair. But know this, that we are going to live all right, and we are going to fight evil though the stars fall, and we do not need any of that money that is gained by failure to strike at wrong doing in high places. It has been said that all things have their price. The Idea has not, and neither will it be influenced in its utterances by hope of reward or fear of threats.

"A fearless newspaper means a progressive city," said a prominent Richmonder recently, and we would suggest that that is all that grand old Richmond needs to make it what it deserves to be.

Now, don't get the idea that because we are going after rascals and rascality with gloves off that this little affair is a sensation hunter, or a scandal monger, or a blackmailing proposition. Our purpose is, by turning on the light, to send the rascals to the tall timber for cover; to put them out of commission, so that we may indeed here in Richmond and throughout Virginia have a government for the people and not for a few privileged people.

With the personal vices and secret sins of individuals

we have no concern. My sins and your sins are none of the public's business unless they have a bearing on the welfare of the State or the community. With the public acts of public individuals, however, we shall at all times feel free to deal. They are public property, and when, by giving them publication, we think we can accomplish a public good, we shall hesitate at nothing.

We are here for the purpose of attaining a larger participation on the part of the people in their own affairs, the affairs of their government, and for the purpose of abating nuisances which are permitted by the people's servants contrary to the expressed commands and wishes of the people whose government this is.

We are confident that when once the light is turned on the remedy will be applied. Our work is to turn on the light.

Now, we do not enjoy hitting any one, not even a rascal, and so we trust that when we give them a few jabs in the short ribs they will relieve us of any further disagreeableness by getting right. If not we shall use these columns in the interest of better men for their positions and shall fight them, in this public capacity, without quarter. We understand that some of them have already, on hearing of the coming of this truth-telling affair, been trembling in their boots and have even been making threats. To such we would say that no honest man need have anything to fear from this publication, but let the rascal beware, for we are hunting for a fight, but our weapon shall be the truth, and to those who own this government may we quote, "Ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

The truth shall be our motto, and especially that field of truth which will help the people to again gain control of their own public affairs, which control has been gradually usurped by special interests and certain privileged classes. We American people actually exercise only a very minor semblance of control over our public affairs. We are in the habit of believing that we still have a say in the government, while we are just as profoundly impressed with the fact that our government is not run at all in the interests of the people. The reason that we are so slow to cast off the yoke of tyranny

with which we are ruled lies in the fact that the sceptre of the tyrant is so secretly wielded.

PRIZE OFFER!

The management of The Idea wants live, up-to-date articles on "Initiation and Referandum," "The Recall," and "Government by Commission," and will give cash prizes for the best articles on these and other municipal subjects.

More detailed announcement will appear in our next number. We want you to feel that you have in The Idea a medium of expressing your opinion on the questions of the day, and it is our sincere desire to make this little affair the mouthpiece of the people in their fight for better conditions by giving publicity not only to the public acts of their public officials, but also to their sentiments and aspirations for better things.

Let Virginia manhood and womanhood come to the front and make out of The Idea the fighting organ of the people against all manner of evil in all its bearing on their social, moral and political life.

GOVERNMENT BY COMMISSION.

The papers recently have begun to discourage the government by commission movement for the reason given that the people do not seem to be interested in making the change. The real trouble seems to be that the people have seen their interests neglected so much at the hands of the politicians who handle the purse-strings of their government that they are prone to think that it is a necessary evil to have their affairs run by a ring and they are unable to see just where they come in on any deal, whatever changes are made. The people do not lack interest in any change for the better, they simply have so much fear of crooked politics in Richmond that they cannot yet believe that any change in form of government would do away with the human parasites who have been fat tening off the body politic.

After a three years' study of this form of government, we are persuaded that the so-called government by commission is the only business-like form of government and that even with weak men in office this form is vastly more efficient and economical than the old form; in fact, if it were not for weak or evil men the old form might answer, but it is simply because of the likelihood of at least sometimes getting bad men that this kind of government commends itself.

Under the present cumbersome councilmanic system, the bad man works his tremendous evil secretly and indefinitely and therefore the responsibility can seldom be placed and the remedy applied. With perfect men any kind of a system will do, but with evil men we must have as nearly as possible a perfect system, and government by commission is that system.

Government by commission is simply putting into practice the methods of administration which large private corporations like the railroads have found to be most efficient. In other words, it is simply government by business methods. The real trouble that effects the interest of the people of Richmond in this matter is found when one considers the difficulties which those who have discussed it publicly here have found to exist in the way of any immediate practical working out of its adoption on account of the necessary change in the State Constitution. The body of the people can always be relied on to listen to any plan for immediate good results, but it will always be hard to arouse enthusiasm over a distant good, especially when the papers with their tremendous power for good or evil seem willing to let the matter drop.

As a matter of fact, the people are getting more and more solicitous of their standing with their governments and the one thing lacking is wise and strong leadership in the press.

Richmond, with its intelligent citizenship, should have the best government in the world, and if Richmond will help Lynchburg and Roanoke in their effort to throw off the manacles of councilmanic government by joining them in a fight to be made in the legislature next winter, looking to the necessary constitutional changes to make such business government possible in Virginia, there will be no doubt about the success of the movement.

CANDIDATES FOR LEGISLATURE.

Here's an issue for the candidates for the legislature to be nominated this summer. Let the people ask them: What is your position on the government by commission plan?

In the language of the mountaineer this little paper "is not afraid of any man and ding few women."

"Publicity! Publicity! Publicity is the greatest force and factor in our public life."—*The New York World.*

The editor of the greatest newspaper in the world wrote in 1889 his ideal of a newspaper: "To be both a daily schoolhouse and a daily forum, both a daily teacher and a daily tribune, an instrument of justice, a terror to crime, an aid to education, an exponent of true Americanism * * * * * forever fighting every form of wrong, forever independent, forever advancing in enlightenment and progress, forever wedded to truly democratic ideas, forever aspiring to be a moral force, forever rising to a higher plane of perfection as a public institution."

THE TIMES-DISPATCH SLANDERS McALLISTER.

As we go to press to-day, May 31st, our attention is called to a flaring article in the morning paper, which, among many other misstatements, makes the following dirty charge concerning Field Secretary, McAllister, of the State Anti-Saloon League. It says: "In the course of his address before a mixed congregation in which there were a large number of young people from the Sunday school, Mr. McAllister made allusions and statements which could not be printed in this paper and which caused a blush of shame to go around the congregation."

Mr. McAllister, as well as the congregation of Grove Avenue church, where the sermon in question was preached, has made to-day a vigorous denial of this base untruth, and we expect the Times-Dispatch to acknowledge the falsity of its article tomorrow, but we have written this to show to what an extent Richmond public opinion is molded by its wet jour-

nals and because we know that the retraction of it if forthcoming will not be as vigorous as the initial statement and will not be given the publicity which was given to the article of this morning.

We wonder if the people will ever realize the extent to which misleading news articles mold their actions and thoughts.

The Times-Ditpatch exerts an influence in this community far greater than that of a half-dozen of pulpits, and when that tremendous influence is used, as it was this morning, and as it has often been used in the past few weeks—notably, in the Petersburg fight, on the side of evil and vice by so coloring statements of the purest and cleanest of Christian ministers so that these statements, so colored, have an exactly opposite effect from the words actually used—we say, that when such a state of affairs has come about, then it is high time that the Christian people of Richmond were, in no uncertain tones, informing such publications that they no longer can expect their patronage.

THE RED LIGHT DISTRICT.

Richmond's Greatest Evil, from the Standpoint of the Law.

It might appear a hard question to answer what is the greatest evil in America to-day. While some would say the graft of governmental systems, or the rank greed and commercialism that has gotten such a strong hold on every part of our complex modern life, others, and perhaps a large majority, would contend that the evil of ardent spirits is greater than all other evils combined in that it is so often the first cause of all other evils.

The drink evil among races other than the Hebrew is without doubt the most stupendous and far-reaching of all the evils of the present time, and this cannot for a moment be denied, when one thoughtfully considers its relation to other evils.

Take for instance, the social evil. It is an undisputed fact that with the reduction in the consumpion of arden spirits

in any community there is always a corresponding reduction in the number of houses of ill fame and, in many instances, the abolition of the saloon has also worked the abolition of its attendant evil—the red light district.

And the same fact is also universally recognized in regard to the decrease of other crimes on the closing of the saloon. So it will readily be seen that as a cause of crime and other evils the drinking of ardent spirits stands first among the evils of the world.

But our concern in this article is to show that in Richmond the house of ill fame is, from the standpoint of the law, a greater evil than any other, and this will be more readily admitted when the following fact is stated, i. e.: The laws of Virginia license and thus legalize the first evil—the drinking of poisonous spirits—but they do not legalize the other—the social evil. Not only is prostitution a crime, but the very maintaining of a house of bad reputation is, in the eyes of the law, both of the State and the city, a very grave crime.

It is therefore that we are justified in stating that from the standpoint of the law the social evil, as it exists in Richmond to-day, is Richmond's greatest evil and the greatest blot on the honor and fair name of the city. There is one vast section of the city, besides numerous other small sections, which is entirely given over to this lawless business under the very eye and sanction of the police who are sworn to uphold the law.

Mayo street, from Broad to Main, and the adjacent streets and alleys, comprise this hot-bed of crime and debauchery.

There may be seen any evening thinly clad women of the midnight world openly in the streets soliciting men, or telling vile jokes, or boisterously laughing over their drinking, and, by means too debasing to mention, advertising their wares in the very shadow of the capitol of the proudest State in the Union and the one that boasts most of its pure blood.

Now, we hear some poor, deluded mortal argue that there is no use in the police trying to stop it, because, because, because. With such we have no argument now, for this is another question which we propose to treat in due season, but it is not in the province of the police or the mayor to decide whether he will enforce a law or not because of the uselessness

of the law. It is the concern of the legislature, if the law is wrong; but when the law is on the statute books and the officer is sworn to enforce it, he should attempt its enforcement in the face of all opposition, because it is not a question of the good of the law, but the simple question of the duty of the servant who is not simply the hired servant, but the sworn hired servant

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A QUESTION FOR MAYOR RICHARDSON.

Now, the Virginia Code read sas follows:

Chapter 185. Of offenses against morality and decency. Section 3790, page 2021. "If any person keep a house of ill fame resorted to for the purpose of prostitution or lewdness, he shall be confined in jail not exceeding one year and fined not exceeding two hundred dollars; and, in a prosecution for this offense, the general character of such house may be proved."

The courts, when called upon to determine this statute, have held that it is not necessary to prove a specific act, but that evidence of the character of the house is sufficient, and that it is not even necessary to have as evidence the names of the persons visiting the house.

Thus we see that the law is not only exceedingly clear, but, recognizing the import of the offence, gives the officer very broad authority and then demands of him as it demanded of Mayor Richardson on the 1st of January last, as he took up his duties as chief executive of the city, that he swear an oath to enforce all the laws, both of city and State. And yet, we have a very cesspool of iniquity openly tolerated by the chief executive and his lieutenants.

We will therefore thus publicly ask the mayor the following question: Why do you not enforce the law as above stated? If there is any good reason why you do not, we shall not only take pleasure in publishing any statement which you may make to that effect, but it shall also give us pleasure to defend you openly in your course.

Now, in view of the fact that there are some who think that this evil is best handled as at present—by not handling it

at all— we desire to show them and the good people of Richmond that the present state of affairs is a festering sore on the social body, the proportion and the corruption of which the people have no adequate conception of.

And this condition has come about because of the fact that this evil has stretched out its debasing arms and fastened itself upon the politics of Richmond to such an extent that the papers of the city do not dare touch it for fear of consequences. You see, these people pay very large rents. We know of one instance wherein a keeper of a house of ill fame pays $25.00 a week for a house that would not rent for $25.00 a month to decent people. Now, any agitation of this question may seriously effect the revenues of certain parties who cannot afford to permit the papers to stir up any hostile legislation to this subject.

The degradation of this quarter, and the brazenness of its inhabitants cannot be estimated without seeing it. The editor of this paper walked through this section last week and found women sitting in the street drinking what appeared to be wine and boldly acknowledging their shame for money from pedestrians. A policeman was holding conversation with two of these women on their porch and another was quietly taking in the sights from his stand against a building.

Now, we do not like to soil the pages of The Idea by an airing of such questions as this. Similarly, if there were a corrupted sore on the hand it would be sickening to gaze on it, and yet we would not be so foolish as to utterly neglect it just because looking at it is unpleasant. It is absolutely necessary to see the unpleasantness of any evil before the proper steps can be taken for remedying it. And it is also true that it is sometimes necessary for a doctor to show a patient what his malady will come to in order to get him to take the steps necessary to eradicate it. So a few words as to the results of permitting this evil to go on in its present full swing are in order.

"Vice is a monster of so frightful a mein
That to be hated needs but to be seen,
But seen too often, once familiar with her face,
We first endure, then pity, then embrace."

The above lines from the poet are applicable to the case of

many of our large cities. The city of New Orleans has tolerated this open vice so long that it has gradually gone from bad to worse, and now the very mention of the tenderloin of that wicked city is a stench in the nostrils of the nation. Women are bought to feed the maw of this monster evil, and, with only a scant piece of clothing and stockings, are held in slavery to vice.

"The Social Evil," being the report of New York's Committee of fifteen appointed to study this enormous evil, gives a horrible picture of the end toward which Richmond is going with its practical legalization of prostitution.

A copy of this book is in the city government library, in the office of the Mayor of Richmond.

It shows, as one of the monster evils of this toleration of law violation, a "cadet system," as it is called. A cadet't "occupation is professional seduction." * * * "Through fear and promises of marriage, she casts her fortune with her companion and goes to live with him. The companion disappears, and the shopgirl finds herself the inmate of a house of prostitution. She is forced to receive visitors of the house. For each visitor the girl receives a brass check from the cashier of the house, entitling her to twenyt-five cents. The cadet returns to the house at frequent intervals, takes the checks from his victim and cashes them at the cashier's desk," etc. But that's enough of this to show just what Richmond is coming to. We hope that something will be done to break this up so that The Idea will be able to reserve its pages for material which, to say the least, is not so unpleasant.

We will say by way of reason for this that just such methods as this of fighting this evil have enabled The Idea to eradicate very largely this state of affairs in Lynchburg.

A Lynchburg preacher, under recent date, writes as follows: "It is no secret here that to you and The Idea we owe the breaking up of the red light section in Lynchburg. Until you began to throw light upon the situation and call attention to it many refused to believe that there were many such places in this city, but, aroused by The Idea, the people came bravely to the front with the result that many of these places were broken up and all the rest scattered, and our city virtually rid of a festering sore."

Lynchburg Department.

ENGINEER'S REPORT.

The monthly report of Engineer Shaner for May is before us, and while our space is too limited in this number to give it the attention it should have, we are compelled to make the following remarks about the D Street Viaduct.

This is the third report made by the engineer, and when he failed to make an intelligible report at first we were disposed to overlook it, but since he has not corrected it, we desire to call attention to certain figures. The part of the report in question is entitled, D Street Viaduct, Statement Showing Expenditures, and enumerates only $45,267.93.

Now, one would naturally think that this showed the total expense of that viaduct, but this is not true, for the engineer for some reason has not deemed it wise to enumerate other amounts, running into several thousands of dollars, which should show on any report which purports to be a "Statement Showing Expenditures" for the D Street Viaduct.

In the first place, there is a preliminary expense of $1,243.08, and various other items amounting to $2,612.17, or a total of $3,855.25, which we know of which is not put on his report at all, and, for all you or I know, there may be many, many thousands more which certainly should show on such a report.

It is time we were demanding some sensible, tangible reports that would state all the facts about any and every item of the expenditure of our money.

And yet, you'll find a few people left in Lynchburg who can't sanction The Idea's kicking.

IS CARTER GLASS A DEMOCRAT?

VOTED FOR REPUBLICAN TARIFF.

The citizens of Lynchburg and the surrounding country have heard Mr. Glass so often preach against the tariff as

a Republican measure that we of course expected him to vote with the Democrats on this measure, even if he did turn Republican on other measures, because it has not only always been the principle of the Democratic party to oppose the high tariff, because it puts the tax on the poor man by increasing the cost of living, but also because the Democratic Platform of last year, on which Mr. Glass stumped the State and organized the Bryan-Kern-Glass Club, contained the following: "We demand the immediate repeal of the tariff on wood pulp, print paper, lumber, timber and logs, and that these articles be placed on the free list."

Now, understand that under the old tariff these things were and are heavily taxed, but when a measure was introduced in Congress this session to put them on the free list in accordance with the paltform on which Mr. Glass ran, he immediately voted with the Republicans, and it was his vote, together with the vote of a few other Democrats, that helped the Republicans to defeat the measure, for if these few Democrats had voted with the rest of their party free lumber would have won easily because even many Republicans voted against such a tax on the poor man. But Mr. Glass flopped over and played false to those who had elected him and clinched another tax on the consumer. When there was no tax on lumber the poor man paid less for his home and less for his rent, but rents have nearly doubled in Lynchburg since this same tariff went into effect. Now, when he could have helped to reduce rents, Mr. Glass voted to keep them up, and what excuse does Mr. Glass give? Why, he practically says that two wrongs make a right; that the Republicans have been helping the Northern manufacturers steal from the people, and it is nothing but fair that this steal should be divided up, and so he voted to help the Southern manufacturer steal some from the people.

You see, most of our representatives don't give a continental for the people except at election time, and when the time to vote comes, he votes for the rich man and he lets the poor man look out for himself, and he gets so bold in his care of the manufacturer that he even forgets his promise to the people in the very platform on which he was elected.

Is Mr. Glass a Democrat? No! He's a straddler and he still hopes to be Democratic Governor of Virginia. Gee whiz! And a whole lot of you who read this will vote for him again simply because he calls himself a Democrat. And you wont vote a Republican ticket, even if the candidate is ten times the better man, simply because of what somebody who called himself a Republican did years ago. If you want to be free men and have decent government in Virginia, you've got to get over your worship of party and vote for the clean man.

The "Northern Neck News," in referring to Democrats (?) who had flopped over to the Republicans on this tariff fight says: "They need a divorce, a vinculo from the principles of their party. They have lain with the vampire harlot of protection and are guilty of that offense which is biblical ground for divorce."

The Philadelphia Record says: "This is not the kind of man to represent Democracy. He might serve well enough when the public interests and his own do not come into collision."

Senator Culberson, leading Democratic Senator of Alabama, said in the Senate the other day that the doctrine of a protective tariff by which money is taken from the consumers to enrich manufacturers and producers is contrary to the spirit of the Constitution, and that such a policy has raised the prices of all articles to the consumers enormously.

The Times-Dispatch says: 1. That Democratic Representatives and Senators appealed for votes and got them on the pledge that, true to their party principles, as defined in their platform, they would fight for lower duties and a reduced cost of living.

2. That Democratic Representatives and Senators who use their positions to fight for higher duties and an increased cost of living are not true to their party principle, as defined in their platform.

3. That the effect of the stand of these Democrats has been to bring their party into derision before the country and seriously to weaken its prospects of future success.

William Jennings Bryan rebukes Mr. Glass and his kind

as follows: "The Democratic platform demanded free lumber, and I believe a platform is binding upon all who run upon it. If the taxpayers would take a little more interest in the tariff question and chastise the representatives who, ignoring the interests of the consumer, follow the advice of the protected interests, relief would come sooner."

Virginians should be ashamed to have in Congress a man whom the papers all over the country accuse of having gone back on the party that elected him. Collier's Weekly publishes the names of these Democrats, so-called, and then quotes from a letter they received: "Can you tell me what is the difference between Republicanism and Democracy as applied to the Republican and Democratic parties now?" Let's take Bryan's advice and "chastise the representatives."

Blunders.—A lot of money has just been wasted on the D Street Viaduct by laying cement drains on both sides of the roadway across the bridge and then having to dig them all up with picks because it had been done wrong.

On Rivermont Ave., between Bedford and Cabell streets, the granolithic walk was laid level when the inside should have been raised several inches above the curbing. As a result, and because of the low position of the walk, in bad weather water stands so deep on this block that one has to wade through a veritable creek to get along there, and yet the city paid, besides paying for the work done, and outside of general engineering expenses, some $30.00 for "engineering and inspection," just to see that this very thing was not done.

The D Street Viaduct was at first to cost about $40,000.00, we understand, and now we find that that work has caused the city to expend, so we are informed, more than $60,000.00. Likewise, it can readily be seen that the Fifth street viaduct is going to cost, after all expenses connected with it have been paid, much more than the estimate on which the city based its claim against the railroad company. This is but another big argument for government by commission.

Almshouse and Hospital Property.—Why should the

city go to the unnecessary expense of buying another valuable lot on which to build a hospital when the city already has in its almshouse property a fine site for a building for this purpose.

Our biggest quarrel with the Council is this—that on account of the very nature of, and lack of compensation for, their services, councilmen do not do the city's business with the same common sense business care that they do their own work. We will venture to say that if any one of our wealthy councilmen were moved to spend his own money by the same motives and with as little careful attention to details as he uses in spending the city money he would be financially embarrassed in a very short while. The reason that cities survive is that although their money is proverbially unwisely spent still the expenditures are always limited by law. Again we say we are not writing to blame the councilman. It's the absurd, nonsensical, cumbersome, impracticable, outlandish mess of a system that should have been buried years ago that is the trouble.

Mr. R. Funai, the genial and popular clerk at Molteni's finds himself without employment since Lynchburg went dry, and so it gives The Idea pleasure to commend him to the favorable consideration of any who may need a good man. Funai says that the last three months have seemed like three hundred years to him, for he has a large family to support and is by nature an energetic and hard-working man. We would suggest that any retail concern would find him especially valuable on account of his extensive acquaintance and universal popularity.—The Editor.

The Lynchburg Ball Team is suffering from a case of Al. Orth, most affable and popular, and one who knows how ball should be played, but one who, as captain-manager, seems to be an utter failure. In justice to himself, Mr. Orth should get another captain.

Next week we will have something to say about that

Lynchburg councilman who has been doing a little grafting in the renting of the Friends Warehouse property.

We find that the Fire Department received $82.00 last year in revenues for manure sold. We find no such entry in the report of the Engineering Department. What would you think of a private concern running a stable or stables which got no revenue from its manure. And this department has charge of quite a bunch of horses, for garbage wagons, sweeping department, street repair work, driving horses and other purposes. There's a screw loose somewhere! And ain't it funny we never thought to look into these things before?

A pedestrian living in Rivermont who frequently walks to his work, suggests that the city have a revolving gangway placed on Rivermont avenue, across Jones street, since the sidewalk and stepping rocks have been placed so low that every rain makes a deep mire over top of the walkway. Such a gangway being built for the city should not cost so very many hundreds of dollars (but what difference does a few hundred dollars make to the taxpayers, anyhow), and it would do away with the necessity of the city raising the walk, which should have been done in the first place.

In our last Lynchburg edition, notice was given of a proposed citizens' organization, but our having to come to Richmond earlier than we expected, and the proximity of the summer elections, has led us to deem it inadvisable to push this just at this time. It will, however, be taken up later.

CAUGHT!

Beneath a shady tree they sat;
He held her hand, she held his hat;
I held my peace and lay quite flat;
They kissed, I saw them do it.
He held that kissing was no crime;
She held her head up every time,
I held my peace and wrote this rhyme;
They never knew I knew it.

—Selected.

The Business Manager

IN next week's edition we will print by special permission of the management of La Follette's Magazine, a most charming article by Wm. J. Neidig, on a subject of extreme interest to Richmonders, because it deals with a condition that confronts them at this time. ¶ Mr. Neidig has interwoven, in his very forceful preachment, a story of love which can not fail to attract. "The Business Manager," as the story is entitled, is well worth double the price of the whole Magazine.

The Very Idea

THE IDEA

A SIGN OF THE TIMES

WEEKLY 5 Cents the Copy

Vol. III June 12, 1909 No. 2

IN this Number:

Machine Politics, - - *Editorial*
Rich Gamblers, - - - *Editorial*
Lynchburg Graft, - - - *Editorial*
The Mayor and The Red Light District
And Other Stuff Worth While

BEING SOME SERMONETTES PUBLISHED WEEKLY FOR THE COMMON GOOD AT RICHMOND AND LYNCHBURG, VIRGINIA, BY ADON A. YODER, Editor and Publisher, 904 Capitol St., Richmond, Va.

MY KINGDOM

For this is my kingdom—my peace with my neighbor;
The clasp of a hand or the warmth of a smile;
The sweetness of toil as the fruit of my labor;
The glad joy of living and working the while.

The birds and the flowers and the blue sky above me;
The green of the meadow, the gold of the grain;
A song in the evening, a dear heart to love me,
And just enough pleasure to balance the pain.

—*William C. Bagley*

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PREFATORY.

"Something is rotten in the State of Denmark."

"I could a tale unfold, whose lightest word
Would harrow up thy soul, freeze thy young blood;
Make thy two eyes like stars start from their spheres,
Thy knotted and combined locks to part,
And each particular hair to stand on end,
Like quills upon the fretful porcupine."

"And what so poor a man as Hamlet is,
May do to express his love and friending to you,
God willing shall not lack."—Shakespeare.

Let the above three quotations speak respectively for, The People, The Daily Press, and THE IDEA.

Something is indeed rotten in Richmond and this Richmonders know very well, and yet the body of the people do not know the particular individuals who are to blame, who is the grafter, who is the thief.

The papers have frequently intimated to the people, when they felt it necessary, that there is something rotten here, but they have been extremely careful not to place the blame on any

particular individual and we'll make this statement that if the papers did not know who was to blame it was not their fault, and furthermore, if the crooked politician had not known that he could control the situation he would not have dared be so bold in his operations.

Now we propose to not simply state that there is something wrong, but we "will a tale unfold" that will make somebody's "hair to stand on end" because we propose to put our hand on the particular individual or individuals who are responsible for the wrong. We will not only make public the acts of those who throttle the wishes of the people but we will go into the records of those who offer for office and to that end we ask the citizens of Richmond and the candidates for office to furnish us with the records of each candidate.

A DIFFERENT PAPER.

This paper will be conducted on a high moral plane just as if the editor had a conscience. Get the idea? We mean that the editor won't shuffle off his moral conceptions when he takes up his pen, but his conceptions of right and wrong are going to be easily discernable in his writing. You know it has gotten to be customary for a journal writer to have an individual opinion entirely different from the opinion he puts down in black and white. He is expected to lose his individuality entirely when he takes the editorial chair. Well, this little affair is going to be different, we are going to say exactly what we think. In the last number, for instance, readers were surprised to find in print their own thoughts. If one had talked about such things as we wrote no one would have been surprised, but when they were put in black and white it is such an uncommon thing to have actual ideas in black and white that people were surprised and pleased or made mad as the case might be.

Now we've written the above in order to make clear that The Idea has decided ideas of its own about what a paper should be and that our object is to *have opinions* and express them on all live questions. Our object is not to smooth over

here and rub out there and try to keep from saying anything that may displease. Oh, no! The same conscience that rules our daily life shall rule our editorial pen, and since in this day of graft and highway robbery on the part of officials, we must of necessity have a decided opinion, THE IDEA can be counted on to have some very decided and forceful things to say. THE IDEA is *different* in that it is just *like* you and I talk on the street and you and I know that we've been saying things on the street for years that never have got aired in the daily press just because the daily papers are so short-sighted as to think that if they published facts which blamed any individual they would lose by it. And did it ever occur to you that nearly every time anything goes wrong in our city hall or State affairs that some individual or individuals are to blame, and it has occurred to many of the citizens of Richmond that the newspapers are in a position to know nearly every time there is any crookedness, who the individual is, who is to blame, and for reasons, known to themselves, they fail to let the people know who is to blame, *i. e.*, in other words, they print in order to conceal their thoughts rather than to express their thoughts

THE IDEA is *different* because we *have opinions,* and strange to say we feel that we can actually keep up our publication by *expressing opinions.*

THE IDEA sounds original simply because it is the simple unconcealed truth undeoriginalized (swallow!).

OUR POLICY.

Now since we claim to have an editorial conscience it will always be an easy question to decide which side THE IDEA is on.

Take the whiskey question, we'll bet you can tell now before we say so how we stand on that question, for there's only one right side to that or any other question. Of course there are two sides to every question, that is, arguments can be deduced in favor of different sides of any question, but the consciences of the people have been seared or their teaching has been perversive when they can believe that there are two right sides to any question. And it is always easy to discern the right side of a question because there never is but one right

side and there may be a million wrong sides to a given question. Now we hear some one say "Fanatic!" just as soon as this question comes up, and we were simply talking of right and wrong, and that leads us to the following definition of a fanatic as the term is at present used by advocates of the saloon.

A fanatic is one who does not look at the material, financial or business side of a question, but lets his conscience decide for him what is right and wrong. Are you a fanatic or do you belong to a business men's association? Stung!

If you have not been doing it just let your conscience decide your questions for you and you'll be surprised how good you feel. And we haven't said anything yet about wet or dry, but you know which side we are on all right, all right, all right.

FAIR PLAY.

Since we consider the saloon a mighty evil force we are going to fight it, "tooth, tongue, claw and toe nail" but we are going to be fair to both sides and so we make the following offer: We will willingly publish in these pages articles advocating the saloon or opposing the prohibition movement and we solicit such communications from any who may desire to use these columns for that purpose and we promise to use just as large type for such articles as we do for our own. Let's have both sides of the question.

We propose to show: That the saloon does not help business, though we are frank to say we consider this a minor question.

That prohibition does prohibit.

That prohibition decreases crime.

That prohibition decreases taxes, etc., etc., but we will have more space for this later and meantime we want the other side.

THE TIMES-DISPATCH.

vs.

THE ANTI-SALOON LEAGUE.

June 1st—Just as we wrote yesterday, the *Times-Dispatch* did not give the people of Grove Avenue and their pastor, Dr.

James, any publicity at all in their denial of the *Times-Dispatch's* false statement.

In Monday's paper the misstatements were put on the first column of the first page, the most prominent position in the whole paper, under a large display heading, covering by itself four and a half inches of space and beginning with the large capitals more than three-eighths of an inch in height, while the denial from the pastor and prominent members of the church was put on an obscure inner page beginning near the bottom of the next to the last column in a very small, little leaded, hard to read type, and with a heading of one line one sixteenth of an inch in height, or, in other words, the denial was given less than one-seventy-second of the prominence in headlines that the original misstatement was given, and yet the *Times-Dispatch* claims to be fair.

We are printing below Dr. James' statement:

"ABSOLUTELY FALSE." "UNJUST TREATMENT."

Dr. James of Grove Avenue thus characterizes the *Times-Dispatch* article.

DR. JAMES' STATEMENT.

Editor of The Times-Dispatch:

Sir.—Since coming to Virginia two years ago I have heard frequent expressions of regret from many earnest temperance workers over the State concerning what they called the "unfairness of the Richmond papers" toward their efforts to rid the State of Virginia of the traffic in alcoholic beverages. Their contention seems to be that the above mentioned papers will not give the facts as they are; that in this respect the attitude of the Richmond press is one either of suppression or of misrepresentation, or possibly of both. In reply to these complaints I have said nothing, because there was nothing for me to say. My limited residence in Virginia and my non-acquaintance with matters engaging the attention of the people of the State have enjoined upon me the policy of silence. But you must allow me to protest against the unjust treatment which yesterday's *Times-Dispatch* bestowed upon the Rev. J. D. McAlis-

ter, Field Secretary of the Anti-Saloon League of Virginia. On Sunday morning Mr. McAlister spoke in the Grove Avenue Baptist church, of which I am pastor, in advocacy of the cause which he represents, and concluded his address with some observations upon the recent local option election in Petersburg. So inaccurate and unfair is the report of his sermon in Monday's *Times-Dispatch* that had it been the purpose of your correspondent wilfully to misrepresent him he could not have succeeded better than he did. This, however, I am loath to believe. There are two charges in the report referred to which demand an unqualified denial. The first is that "Mr. McAlister made allusions and statements which could not be printed in the *Times-Dispatch,* and which caused a blush of shame to go around the congregation." This charge your correspondent makes twice. In reply, let me state that the charge is absolutely false. To say nothing of the many high-toned and respectable gentlemen who were present, some of the most refined and elegant women in Richmond heard the address, and it never occurred to them that Mr. McAllister had made improper allusions until they read the report in Monday's *Times-Dispatch.* My reason for this statement is that I have communicated with several of these ladies to-day; all of them were surprised—some of them were indignant that such a charge was made, and all of them equally emphatic in their denial of it. Another false charge made against him is that on the night of the election day in Petersburg "loaded wagons from the breweries came and went on the streets delivering their load to disreputable places, where people openly rejoiced at the degradation of the city," etc. Mr. McAlister did say that the Petersburg breweries were the vilest he had ever known. He did say that these breweries carried on a thriving business with questionable places in that city. He did say that there was rejoicing among the saloonkeepers, the business men's organization, the gamblers, the unfortunate women and a certain order of politicians, but he did not say, neither did he intimate, that the breweries and liquor men were selling their wares either on election day or on the night of election day. If this report of the address of the Rev. J. D. McAlister is a fair sample of the treatment which

Anti-Saloon League representatives and the friends of local option generally receive from the Richmond papers, then the undersigned must yield a great deal of credence to the statement made at the beginning of this article, and henceforth regard with more or less of mental reservation any future statements appearing in the Richmond papers and bearing upon the work of the Anti-Saloon League. Respectfully,

W. C. JAMES,

Pastor Grove Avenue Church.

Notice the fact too, that though the paper published rank untruths concerning what McAlister and Richardson said, it at the very same time before going to press phoned to Petersburg and obtained a "vigorous denial" of those statements so that the very article which misled the people might work to the interest of the liquor element by having it appear that the Anti-Saloon League was not only making statements too hot for the goody goody? paper to publish, but that its leaders were actually lying.

When we started to print this little publication we not only hoped, but even believed, that we would have no occasion to tilt with the daily papers, but we have found such a frightful state of affairs that we cannot refrain from exposing it.

Here's a quiz for you—Do newspapers have consciences?

Or are newspapers like the big trusts—devoid of both spinal cord and conscience?

The existence of unscrupulous newspapers in Virginia is the sole reason for the tolerance on the part of the people of the tremendous evil of the licensed saloon.

The newspapers of this State have so long maligned the Anti-Saloon League officers and speakers that people actually go to hear such speakers hoping and expecting to be regaled with a lot of salicious or vulgar anecdote or sensational blood and thunder and are very much surprised to find scholarly, profound, reverent and mighty sermons by men of powerful and towering intellect, and then they go home to be astounded the next day by newspaper yarns wherein the little reporter tells, of the same sermon, that he heard divers wondrous statements that his paper is too goody goody to publish.

But, to cap the climax, the *Times-Dispatch* certainly sprung one on the public recently when they actually claimed, by inference at least, to have more conscience than Grove Avenue Baptist church and the gifted and God-fearing J. D. McAlister, of the Anti-Saloon League. My! what'll happen next?

FIVE CENTS A COPY.

As an advertisement, we gave away several hundred copies of our last week's number.

In the future no more copies will be distributed in this way, but they can be had at all news stands and of news boys at five cents a copy.

WANTED.

A live, energetic man or woman as advertising solicitor on fine commission basis. Excellent opportunity. Permanent. Address The Idea, or call quick, 904 Capitol St., Richmond, Virginia.

THE MAYOR. THE RED LIGHT DISTRICT.

As the Mayor has not answered our question asked last week, why he does not regard his oath of office in enforcing the house of ill fame law, we will answer it for him very simply as follows: He can't enforce it, and therefore he cannot answer the question. There's a ring behind him stronger than his duty which makes it impossible for him to hold his office and enforce the law. We are going to make it so warm, however, that he cannot refuse to enforce the law. We even understand that Mayor McCarthy, when he undertook this work, found an organization of crime more powerful than he, which he could not withstand. And yet, the great, strong, intelligent and powerful Richmond public will let a small band of law breakers and criminals practically

control their city, and even a large percentage of the preachers keep quiet.

If just a very few of the citizens should band together this state of affairs could not withstand them. Suppose the preachers should fight it—there are perhaps one hundred well educated, well equipped ministers in Richmond—the law breakers would have to get right. Just a little concerted action would put Richmond before the world as a model for clean, progressive, modern municipal management. We are sure that the preachers will fight this just as soon as they see the evil.

The preacher, as a rule, is kept ignorant of the sins of the masses and he does not know their enormity nor how to fight them.

RICH GAMBLERS GO FREE, POOR ONES SUFFER.

Big gambling is permissible in Richmond, but the gamblers are supposed to use a little discretion in their action. Recently, however, they became so exceedingly bold that the county authorities had to take hold of them and several of the leaders got caught and had to suffer a nominal fine. But note this fact—that in each case there was only a show of a trial or of justice, for there were big fellows higher up that a trial would expose, and that would never do, so those pleading guilty were fined, though it would be hard to tell who paid their fines, and thus the matter was hushed up. Now, we would like to know who rented this gambling room out to the gamblers anyhow. They certainly did not break in there to gamble. Here's food for the police, but we suspect they don't want it. Gambling goes on on Broad street openly sanctioned by the police daily in Richmond. We stood recently for a solid hour in sight of the surging crowds of the street and saw the proprietor of an establishment manage a big gambling game in which boys under twenty-one years of age took part.

With the gambling devices in sight of the street of course the police are on to the game, and yet, if one of them gets wind that two darkies are "shooting crap" a mile outside of the city limits, he'll hike out and nab him, and the poor darkie will perhaps spend a night in jail for his little offense, which

is absolutely no offense at all against the city as compared with the sanctioned and flagrant violation of the city and State law within the city.

THE FLUME AND PRESENT CEMENT WORK.

It is well known that the grafters got in their dirty work on the flume. In our next number we will show how contractors who are now at work for the city of Richmond are putting in cement work that is not according to specifications.

Now is the time to stop this work and not wait until you have been faked. A change in the form of government and in the personel of the officers alone will remedy this. We have such a rotten graft gang here that inspectors cannot do their duty and hold their jobs, and yet, councilmen would recommend no change in form of government.

WHY DON'T COUNCILMEN WANT A CHANGE IN FORM OF GOVERNMENT?

The attitude of councilmen may be explained by the remark of a former councilman: "They say there's nothing in it for councilmen, but I'd give ten thousand dollars to get back there."

It is because so many grafters have gotten into power that good men do not always stand for election to the councilmanic bodies. Experience has shown that it takes only one grafter in five to wreck a city, and it often happens that the four clean men are simply a cloak to shield the bad ones.

DANGEROUS!

TO WHOM?

Frequent word has come to us since THE IDEA came out last week that we had better be on guard; that some of the ring were ready to "fix" us; that prominent citizens had said that what THE IDEA has said is true, but it is "dangerous" to publish it because of the dangerous character of the lawless element at whom we were firing. Just think of it! With

ninety-nine per cent. of the citizens of Richmond the best in the world and yet so dominated by one per cent. of those with no principle that it is dangerous for the people to talk among themselves about their own affairs.

Let us say, however, that we have been up against the ring before and, despite their threats, we have continued to exist and have put them on the run. We expect threats. When you throw a stone in the dark and some cur barks, you know you have hit something. Have you heard any fice?

GRAFT.

Richmonders tell us every day that they have here one of the worst rings that ever dominated a city, and yet these same Richmonders naturally hesitate to go after this ring and put it out of business. This is the most conservative spot in the United States, and while conservatism has many excellent uses, it should not be an excuse for permitting evil to rule a city. Richmond is a city to be proud of, and, in a five years' residence here, we have learned to love it and appreciate the excellent qualities of the citizens. It is a city worth fighting for, and we propose to do our part towards making Richmond a city which can boast of its government as well as of its citizenship.

Richmond is such a progressive city that if it were once rid of its ring public improvement would increase, taxes would decrease. We could know what our gas is costing the city, and our gas department and water and electricity departments should cost us less.

With the present bad management the expenditure of two and a half millions of dollars gets the city perhaps one million of value received. If the people will take hold this can be remedied. If the form of government alone had been better, but the personel equally as bad, the city would not have made such a botch as it did in the flume. We'll handle that flim-flam flume later.

THE ELECTRIC AWARD.

If we had one commissioner to take charge of the electric

department with the five members of the commission alone acting as the council, do you suppose we would have to pay $8,300 of hard-earned tax money of the people into pockets of graft? No! The electric committee is large and unwieldy and irresponsible, and one man, we repeat it, one man, who lacks principle, can actually rule the situation. But suppose we had a commissioner who was directly responsible to the people and who was dependent on them for his salary, do you think we would have the mess we've had here for the last several weeks?

Now, do not misunderstand us. We have the utmost respect for those members of the committee who are above reproach, and yet they all admit that they are not experts, and when they had a meeting last week they actually refused to go into details about the contract award and even refused to let Mr. Trafford make any statement whatever to the committee on the ground, as two of them expressed it, notably, Mr. Spence, that they "did not want to put Mr. Trafford up to be shot at." Why should not the people be able to call on Mr. Trafford for a reason for an apparent giving away of $8,300 of their money? Can't he stand the fire? Is he vulnerable, or, rather, is the committee vulnerable?. In the face of repeated demands by citizens and by representatives of interested parties, the committee point-blank refused to offer any excuse for their action.

Now, if there is nothing rotten here, the average citizen, judging from his conversation, seems to think there is, and their suspicions were confirmed last Monday night when the committee absolutely refused to show its hand. Every time a hint was made to get a word from Mr. Trafford the committee was up in arms, and if one had not known the relation of the parts of that meeting, he would have supposed from their actions that the committee's duty was solely to guard some big secret.

As the meeting adjourned, citizens, disinterested except as citizens, remarked, "cut and dried," and were so used to such procedure that they showed no surprise at the outcome.

The representative of The Idea had been to several coun-

cil, aldermen and committee meetings, but had been unable to decide the question on its merits for lack of information, but he certainly had a reason to expect some semblance of an investigation on this occasion. On the contrary, the committee absolutely refused to do anything which would tend to get any information from the one man on whom they relied to settle the whole question.

GENERAL ELECTRIC CONTRACT INVALID.

A point has been frequently brought out by the Westinghouse people which the council has never attempted to answer; namely, that the General Electric Company's bid was not according to the specification of the engineer in that it did not offer bids on the various parts in detail. If this had been done suspicion would not fall so heavily on the committee, and besides, the people would have some means of knowing in what particular part of the bid there lies a difference of $8,300. If the committee wanted the people to know anything about this affair they would certainly not have acted as they have. We ask, Why did Mr. Richardson and Mr. Spence and Mr. Pollock and Mr. Huber appear to the spectators to be so determined not to have the light turned on? And it certainly was not turned on.

In a mess like this Richmond wont have any responsible party to look to until they have government by commission.

BLUNDERS.—The council has made a big blunder up at the pump house by installing a large plant and putting in four mammoth motors when they have only power enough to run a fraction over one of them. Here they have sunk thousands on thousands of dollars of the people's money to lie idle and decrease in value for two years, waiting until we get an imaginary power house to operate it, while we pay the interest.

And this government by irresponsible committees is going to continue to make just such blunders as this, costing the city hundreds of thousands of dollars of taxes which, after all, the poor man pays entirely, just because the present council now in power is so pleased with that power that they desire

to keep it, and yet poses before the people as being great benefactors, giving (?) their time to the city.

If Mr. Trafford is a $12,000 man—and some of the citizens do not realize that that is about what the council is giving him for his services—then he ought to be able to stand "being shot at" by a few questions. Would somebody beyond Mr. Trafford get hit? Turning on the light wont hurt anybody but the rascal.

RECORDS OF CANDIDATES.

We desire to have at hand complete records of all candidates for the summer elections and it shall give us pleasure to serve Richmond by thus helping the citizens to know who they want to put in office. We are already aware that some of those who offer are not fit for the office.

We offer to the citizens of Richmond and Lynchburg, and later to the citizens of the other towns of the State, the pages of THE IDEA in which to discuss the fitness of candidates for office in any fair-minded manner. As it is our elections are a farce because the average man can not keep informed as to who is the proper man.

NEWSBOYS.

The newsboys can make excellent money by selling IDEAS every Saturday. They will be on sale early Saturday morning of each week at the office, No. 904 Capitol St., and in the West End, Church Hill, Manchester, and other points to be announced later. Some of the boys made more than $2.00 in the limited time they were out last Saturday. Sales will increase rapidly after the people know what it is. Prizes will be announced later for those selling the largest number of copies. Parents wanting their boys to make money will do well to send them down with enough money to start them out.

In the next number we'll tell something about police court methods in Richmond.

We regret that lack of space has forced us to delay until our next number "The Business Manager," which we announced would appear this week.

CREAM OR SKIMMED MILK.

We do not propose in these pages either to dilute the facts with water or to skim off from the facts their richness and flavor and give you the weak and unpalatable skimmed milk concerning the happenings of the day, but it shall be our sweet pleasure to serve you healthy and strengthening cream in the most delightful and least approved style. We mean this: If we were publishing a daily paper here we'd have to sell it for less than it would cost us to get it out and therefore we would have to be extremely careful to get all the advertising possible by cutting down the facts and hushing up certain news that, if published by us, would offend or antagonize some of our advertisers and curtail our income. Now, this is actually what happens to publishers of daily papers. Editorially, they are, and have to be, afraid to call their souls their own. Sometimes one will start out to take a clean, bold, forward stand for all the things he regards as right, but he soon finds that he can't afford it and skims off a little here and there and lives, or else he persists in his initial policy, and makes a financial failure.

You see, it's this way: It costs more than two cents to get out a decent daily paper, so, in order to compete and sell your paper for two cents, you've got to have advertising, and it has been found by all who have tried it that in order to get and keep advertisers you must not have any decided views of your own, if the expression of them editorially will tend to hurt the business of the advertiser.

Now, with a little magazine it's different. We can live without advertising. We don't have to have a large capital to run it and we are not trying to get rich by it, so we are going to tell the truth without apologies and without smoothing it over and without varnish and without dodging the issue.

Now, the truth is always interesting and often is much more startling than fiction, and we have up our sleeve some

very startling things to tell through the coming weeks—things that the daily papers here cannot afford to tell, and the daily papers here are better than in some other places. We are not catering to the advertiser who would buy our editorials with an ad., and none but the honorable and worthy ad. can appear in this paper with our knowledge of its character. We can, therefore, promise you rich, wholesome cream.

If you want skimmed milk, don't read The Idea.

A FIGHT.

On one occasion a certain preacher was berating his fellow preachers for not attacking more forcefully from their pulpits the whiskey business and the houses of ill fame, and one of them replied that he did not like to stir up a fuss.

And that's just what's the matter with the preachers in Richmond to-day. Some of them don't want to stir up a fuss.

Think of it! "Soldiers of the cross" afraid of stirring up a fight. Worse than that! Leaders and generals of the "army of the Lord" afraid of a fight—intimidated because a few men who happened to contribute to their churches on Sunday got up at the Academy of Music in the interests of the most damnable evil that ever afflicted humanity and passed a few resolutions, saying: "It will hurt our business if you start a fight."

One of the most prominent preachers in Richmond (and this preacher will fight) said the other day: "The trouble here is that the preachers, instead of being leaders, are being led by the laymen. They are behind instead of ahead in intellect and in nerve." Now, that's pretty hard on the preachers, but we did not know them well enough to say it, but we do know that if they were what they ought to be and would openly and fearlessly fight there would be such a rumpus here that this whole whiskey business, which the reports from the penitentiary right here in Richmond show causes nearly every bit of the crime in Virginia, could not stand three months in Richmond. When the preachers get ready to fight, Richmond will go dry all right. Up in Lynchburg most of them

got busy, but a few did not, and yet Lynchburg has given the whiskey traffic a blow that it will never recover from, and is now a place fit to raise a family in. Richmond is not.

This is proven by the fact that there is hardly a family in Richmond that is not directly suffering from this stupendous evil through the evil influence of drink on some of its members, and there is not a single one that is not indirectly hurt by it.

THE SOCIAL EVIL.

Let's license the Social Evil. Let's charge say $500 for each one of Richmond's two hundred houses of ill fame, that will give us a revenue of say $100,000, which would cut down our tax rate wonderfully. The city would then make a living out of it, and we citizens would have more money for other purposes. It don't make any difference if that does make us part owners. A little matter of conscience don't cut any figure when a question of $100,000 is concerned.

Besides, the money we would get out of it will help in another big way. It will thus make it legal to patronize them, and then those who patronize them will be doing so lawfully. It would reduce the number of the criminal class because the man who is guilty of now violating the law against adultery would thus be no longer a violator.

Yes, let the law sanction it in order to reduce the number of violators of the law. The first argument in particular should appeal to the business men, for are we not told to do nothing that will hurt the business interests of a community?

Then, too, this would have a third benefit. It would give legal employment (hush! speak it softly) to the young women of the town.

Now, don't laugh or get angry at that kind of argument, for that is exactly the way we treat other evils—after they have fastened themselves upon us. Take the whiskey evil. The Business Men's Association, both in Petersburg and in Lynchburg, argued that it would kill the town not to license the evil; it would take away about $50,000 of the tax money

and we would have to increase the tax rate, which they argue is lower than it would otherwise be with no license.

Then, there is the second argument that the people are going to have it anyhow, and if you make it a crime to sell it you make criminals out of those who deal in it.

Then, there's the third argument that you have no right to take away a man's employment.

You don't like the parellel, do you? We can't help that. Absolutely the only difference between the two cases is that one is a licensed evil and the other, here in Virginia, is not licensed.

In the first place, we are astounded at the thought of licensing the adultery evil, and, in the second place, we have licensed the whiskey evil so long that some of us actually think it may be a good thing to let it keep on with its damning effects just because it will upset business for a while (the bottler's business and the undertaker's business in particular). Now, aren't you ashamed of yourselves, that this, the most astounding evil that ever fastened itself on the human race, has so pulled the wool over your eyes that at times you actually believe that after all it might not do to get rid of it because we will still send perhaps one-fourth as much money over to Petersburg or somewhere else for the daggone pisen anyhow? Aren't you ashamed, that your conscience has gotten so seared that you will sacrifice right for dollars and cents? Shame! Shame! And there are in Richmond, in this so-called Christian city, in this year of our Lord, 1909, some newspapers that are making just such rotten arguments as these.

COURAGE? ?

An afternoon sheet of Richmond—the evening *News-Leader*—says to-day, May 28th, that Petersburg "is blessed with newspapers and business men that are not afraid. Our observation is that no city ever is carried for prohibition if it has a newspaper with the courage and ability to present facts and reasons to the public."

We suppose that *The Leader* means to say that Peters-

burg papers have courage! He-haw! Fol—de—rol—de—fol—de—rol. As a matter of fact, if Petersburg had had a paper in it that would even dare to present the straight news without colors the result would likely have been different, and the wet majority would certainly have been less, and if they had had a single paper that really had a little courage, enough to make it side with its own conscience, the result certainly would have been different.

The truth of the whole matter is just this—that there is not a large newspaper in a single town in Virginia that thinks it can afford to take a stand for the drys, and since a pocketbook has no conscience, they either keep quiet or speak out boldly for the other side, thereby annexing more sheckles for the said pocketbook.

For example, there's the *Lynchburg News,* whose owner, Mr. Glass, claims to be a dry man—in private, and it is actually reported that he gave $100.00 to the Anti-Saloon League, on the quiet—and yet, not only do his papers refrain from any dry talk but, when he was called on to introduce Governor Glenn, of North Carolina, to a prohibition meeting in Lynchburg, his words were so guarded that if one should read his speech who did not know the nature of the occasion on which it was delivered, it would take a Philadelphia lawyer to tell whether he was wet or dry. You see, his revenue from whiskey advertisements is considerable. We will make another broad assertion, that no one knows really what the conscientious sentiments of the editors of the papers of Richmond are, for even if one of them were dry, his paper could not afford to say so.

You see, they all have thousands of dollars of whiskey advertisement contracts. Now, scratch your head and think what that means. They can afford to knock the Anti-Saloon League, for the Anti-Saloon League don't have any advertising contract with them. Let that big thought soak into your calabash. Newspapers with courage, bah! They have no more courage and conscience than senators have. He-haw!

Everybody knows that the vote in Petersburg does not represent the quiet, conservative conclusion of the good people of Petersburg, but Petersburg citizens allowed the newspapers

to so cloud the issue by making a mountain out of a mole-hill that they did not vote their real sober beliefs, but voted, as many of the best Petersburg citizens acknowledge, in the heat of resentment of the reported sayings of one man. No man should so lose his head as to vote against his own interests just to resent an imaginary insult. They voted in the heat of haste and now let them repent at leisure.

We are not inclined to believe that Richmond people, with their boasted intelligence, would allow such a thing to occur in their midst. Richmond is as sure to go dry when the time for voting comes as the sparks are to fly upward. They don't allow the wool to be pulled over their eyes except in the field of pure politics.

POLITICS.

The Idea proposes to take an active stand in forwarding the candidacy of clean men for office and to that end will examine the records of men offering for positions in the gift of the people and will back those whose records show them to be efficient and honest. We will oppose with all weapons at our command those merely negatively good men who commend themselves for consideration at the hands of the powers behind the machine, on account of what they will not do.

The greatest obstacle in the way of good government in America to-day, perhaps, is the ease with which its enemies succeed in putting into authority men whom they can count on and at the same time men who, as far as their records are concerned, are men above reproach. It is this negatively good man who in time of stress is always found with the enemy because he has not backbone to make a stand for right nor to fight the evil which succeeds in dominating his acts.

Better have a positively evil man than a negatively good man, for you at least know how to handle the rascal.

Our governments need, above all things, men of backbone and brains, and when politics is in such a bad way that such men wont offer for office, then it is time for the people to look out, for they will be betrayed and the only remedy is active

participation on the part of the people in proposing clean men and backing them in every way. It has often been found of inestimable value for the people to organize for this very purpose of putting into office clean officials. Notably have such organizations done good and lasting work in Galveston and Des Moines and many other of the vast number of cities which have undertaken government by commission.

Lynchburg Department.

LYNCHBURG GRAFT.

FRIEND'S WAREHOUSE PROPERTY.

According to announcement of last week, we show herewith the condition of affairs existing between the council, Mr. King, the councilman, and the citizens. Mr. King, according to the treasurer's records, pays $1,005 rent for the Friend's Warehouse property. This property is sublet by Mr. King to W. O. Taylor and B. E. Hughes, and part of it is again sublet to others. The figures given are based on the reports for last year and have been slightly altered by the city widening the street.

Mr. Taylor paid rent, $800; the three renters from Mr. Hughes paid, respectively, $130, $220, $270; total rents from Friend's Warehouse, $1,420; a profit of $415, which should be so managed as to go into the city treasury. These figures, you see, do not take into account the rent for Mr. Hughes' office, which should be estimated at perhaps $150, making $565 which the city loses every year by renting this whole property to a councilman.

The Outlook, in commenting on just such deals, says: "The feeling has become practically universal that legislators should not merely keep their skirts clean from illegal transactions, but should avoid any connection with financial transactions which have a legislative interest." Mr. King may have a legal right (though we doubt it) to rent, while a coun-

cilman, property from the city for investment. He certainly has no moral right to use his office as councilman to make money for himself which should go into the public treasury.

This is what they call graft in other cities. Yet there are some people who say that "our councilmen are all right," and "they get no pay for their services." In view of such facts, it can easily be seen why some councilmen do not want "government by commission." In Richmond graft don't stop at such transactions and we suspect that it don't stop there right here in Lynchburg.

A QUESTION FOR JUDGE CHRISTIAN.

WHO PAID THE BILL?

A friend suggests that we ask, for the benefit of the tax-payer, who paid the expense of the lawyers in connection with the appeal in the case of the Commonwealth vs. A. A. Yoder, wherein two lawyers, one from Lynchburg, helped defend (?) Judge Christian before the Supreme Court. The editor of THE IDEA had to pay about $435 for his litigation, and it cost the State a large amount, besides extra council.

Now, we would like to know whether the State—you and I, the tax-payers—had to pay for extra lawyers to defend Judge Christian's malicious and uncalled for action in attempting to punish one for no offense whatever.

If the State had to pay for his blunder, you and I have a right to know it, so that we can call on the legislature to give us a judge who wont make such blunders.

If Christian paid it, it goes to show that after all it was an attempt of F. P. Christian personally to use his authority as judge, to suppress THE IDEA.

The fact that he had to get extra council shows that he knew he had no legal right to do what he did. Next! Mr. Christian!

POLICE.

While in Richmond recently we were struck with the difference in appearance between the policemen of Richmond

and Lynchburg, in favor of Lynchburg. We have heard many compliments of the appearance and work of our police force, but we had no idea how well off we were until we compared with the force of our capital city. Lynchburg can boast as fine looking a body of men as could be easily collected in any walk of life. All praise to the Lynchburg policeman. May he never grow ugly or debauched. All he needs is authority to serve his city. We have two suggestions to make to the city police commissioners. Since the work of the police force has so materially decreased, would it not be wise to do with fewer men? And to avoid any friction, when a policeman resigns simply don't put another in his place, until we have as few as we can get along with well.

The suggestion is this. Let the commissioners provide one plain clothes man for the following reasons: As it is, it is almost impossible for a policeman to get evidence against certain classes of clandestine violators of the law. For instance, nearly all Lynchburgers know that certain laws are being violated in the red light district. A policeman in uniform would find it impossible to get convicting evidence of this, while a plain clothes man could easily put out of commission all this flagrant wrong-doing. The blind tiger would disappear before the workings of a secret police, and the law should be enforced.

FENDERS AGAIN.

Since we called attention to the twenty-four-inch-high fenders of the Traction Company's cars, they have lowered them some, but still they are decidedly too high. Twelve inches above the rail, or sixteen inches above the cross ties seems to be the lowest the Traction Company is willing to put these fenders. This is almost ten inches too high. In Richmond we found the fenders only about two to five inches off the ground, and they were so constructed that when in the bouncing of the car the fender struck the pavement it was not injured at all. The fender was slightly curved up at the front so that in striking the point would not strike, but the curved

lower surface of the fender would strike and glide along, thus saving the fender, but always keeping close to the ground. Should Lynchburg wait until several more citizens are killed and perhaps pay some law suits for not protecting its citizens before requiring the Traction Company to put modern fenders that will save instead of kill, in their place? Suppose Lynchburg had one commissioner whose duty it was to look after the public safety, do you think it would take three years to make the Traction Company put fenders of real value on their cars? Not on your tin-type! And yet, it has taken the council three years to accomplish nothing in this respect, in spite of the fact that nine out of every ten citizens feel it as a serious need to have something done. And why is it? It's just nobody's business to do it. And those who might do it are nearly all personal friends of Mr. Apperson, and they hesitate to do anything to strain a friendship, especially when they get no pay for it. There's the trouble again with this rotten form of government of ours. Everybody's business is nobody's business. And so we plod along, and become disgusted with the whole affair, and, as a result, the very greatest enemy of good government has crept in, namely, lack of interest on the part of the citizen in his government. Let's get modern and have a business form of government as the live cities of the country are doing.

MAYOR SMITH.

We have repeatedly pointed out in the past the failure of Mayor Smith to perform the duties of his office and we do not propose to rest with simply pointing it out. If Mayor Smith does not get busy and enforce the law in Lynchburg we propose to take the proper steps to move in the corporation court that he be relieved of his office and if, after a proper hearing, the judge of that court does not do the proper thing we will put it up to the legislature to give us a judge that will do his duty a part of the time anyhow.

We have nothing to say about Mayor Richardson of Richmond yet. We trust he will enforce the law in Richmond. We hope we may help him do it. It's his move, however.

To Advertisers

Thus Far

WE have offered no one space in these pages since increasing our size and publishing in Richmond. We will, however, shortly put out an advertising man, and offer a limited number of pages to the public. THE IDEA as an advertiser should especially appeal to the public for the following reasons:

¶ I. *Space will be Limited.* We have never published in our former size more than thirty ads.

¶ II. *Magazine Form* is a *permanent* advertisement.

¶ III. *EVERYBODY reads The Idea.* It's red-hot, tho conservative; loud, but neat; outlandish, but true. And it brings results—that's what YOU want.

For Rates Address THE IDEA, 904 Capitol Street
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA

Newsboys!

GET IDEAS *at*
904 Capitol Street
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The Very Idea!

Prizes will be announced later for those selling the most. Sales commence Early SATURDAY Morning

Boys make BIG MONEY

WEEKLY 5 Cents

THE IDEA

A SIGN OF THE TIMES

Vol. III June 19, 1909 No. 3

Clyde Saunders' Committee
The News Leader Scandal
Crutchfield's Court

AND

Other Stuff Worth While in this Number

BEING SOME SERMONETTES PUBLISHED WEEKLY FOR THE COMMON GOOD AT RICHMOND, VIRGINIA, BY ADON A. YODER, Editor and Publisher, 904 Capitol St., Richmond, Va.

A FOREWARNING

The Idea

IS NOT desirous of a reputation as a calamity howler, nor is it anxious for one as a prophet, and yet in the light of history and a knowledge of human nature, we are compelled to see in the present trend of events a coming crisis in the history of our country, and the happenings of the past several months have so confirmed us in our previously formed conclusion that we are willing to make the following statement in the hope that it may lead others to seriously consider the service of their country in preference to the degrading employment of their faculties in self-aggrandizement. Our statement is this:



¶ The present unrest and careful study of civil government resulting from the injustice of the few to the many, whose lot is becoming and will become much worse, will in the next few years inevitably lead to a complete revolution in our national governmental procedure, most likely accompanied by bloodshed and war.

THE IDEA

A Sign of the Times

VOL. III JUNE 19, 1909 No. 3

5 CENTS A COPY $2.00 A YEAR

Published Weekly on Saturday by ADON A. YODER,
904 Capitol Street, Richmond, Va.

THE RING

Saunders' Committee

THE SEAT OF POLITICAL CORRUPTION

How Richmond is Run. The Inner Circle and the Class of Men Composing It

If one seeks to find who is at the bottom of politics in Richmond—who controls the situation—he is almost invariably told, "Clyde Saunders." But if you ask how he controls it and where the trouble is you have asked another question. In this article we will answer these questions which are uppermost in the minds of our citizens.

As a beginning, it is well to call attention to an obscure notice in the papers of last week. Especially note the fact that this is an *obscure, small notice* in the papers and is not commented on at all, either by them editorially or in their "Voice of the People" columns, showing that they are recreant to their duty in not exposing these methods and that the people have no conception of just how they are being sat upon.

The newspaper article in question, in about even two inches, under the small heading, "Elect New Members," reads as follows:

ELECT NEW MEMBERS.

CITY COMMITTEE FILLS VACANCIES FROM VARIOUS WARDS.

"The City Democratic Committee was in session less than thirty minutes at Murphy's Hotel last night. Samuel Steiner resigned as a member of the Committee from Jefferson ward, being immediately elected to fill a vacancy in Henry, into which he has recently moved his residence. Claude Lowry and Charles Weston were chosen to fill vacancies existing in the Jefferson ward delegation, Frank Ferrandini being elected superintendent of Monroe ward. The ward superintendents were instructed to report the names of the judges and clerks for the primary at the meeting to be held next Friday night."

The thing to be noticed is this—that the committee met and ran through in a few minutes a cut and dried program which put large power into the hands of an ex-bar keeper, Frank Ferrandini, who for years ran a low negro resort, on the walls of which was exhibited for the benefit of the lowest element in Richmond a fine mammoth oil painting of a nude white woman, and who operated next door to his bar-room a slot machine amusement stand for negroes, which was so vile and obscene that it had to be broken up by the police.

In these machines were shown indecent moving pictures of the vilest description.

When the Chief of Police and the Mayor went there to examine the conditions on complaint of citizens, negro bucks were so wrapped up with the salacious sights that they had to almost literally fight their way through the throng and force the revellers from the machines. And yet, the Democratic Committee has put this man, Frank Ferrandini, at the head of a ward, and notice what power is put in the hands of this ward superintendent. He is the man who "selects judges and clerks for the primary." In other words, the ward superintendent is the man who is to blame when there is a crooked election, and it is because the Democratic City Committee is so low that they put this power into the hands of such base citizens, and then,

when an election is stolen—and you have no means of knowing how many are stolen—it is chargeable to this same City Committee. You may expect flim-flame-flumes and awards made to the largest bidder and contracts let to parties which must be unreliable and corruptible if you permit such a committee to decide who is elected to councils.

Why is it you have to have grand jury investigations after elections? Why is it that the choice of the people is seldom elected? Why is it that clean men do not often offer for office? It is because clean men don't want to go up against a dirty ring and have it said of them through the coming years that "so and so, ward heeler and crook, beat him for office."

Elections have been stolen in Richmond. And the chances are that with the present policy of the City Democrat Committee elections will be stolen this year.

Why is it that men like Hunsden Cary, a man who is absolutely impeccable and above reproach cannot be elected in Richmond? It is because the City Committee are so afraid of a clean and fearless Commonwealth's Attorney that they will resort to such methods as this to keep such men out of office and also to keep many men of principle from even voting in elections. Think of it! High-minded citizens of Richmond, who were Democrats, when the name Democrat carried honor with it, and before such men got into power, or were even born, must go up to the polls and certify to Ferrandini that they are Democrats. Proud men who bear the name and blood of ancient families of continued honor and distinction must bow down to such a committee and say, "I am a Democrat," or else, they cannot exercise the right attained by the blood of their ancestors to vote in a primary which decides who shall serve and represent them in city and State and nation. Behold, how has Virginia fallen!

Behind disastrous legislation are some venal councilmen. Behind venal councilmen are unfair elections. Behind unfair elections are crooked election officials. Behind crooked election officials are grafting committeemen. And right here in the City Democratic Committee, if two and two make four, there is graft of the worst description, because it is almost absolutely necessary for one desiring an office "in the gift of the

people" (?) to gain the favor of this committee, and no clean man would stoop so low.

Here you have the circle complete. Greed, graft, committee, election, council, greed, and so on around the ring, but at the centre, acting as hub and holding the ring together, is the City Democratic Committee, run, as most committees are run, by a sub-committee whose influence is worth dollars and cents. And the newspapers, to whom you naturally look to keep you posted, say never a word about it.

Americans have built up a great country, and then, by their patronage of the daily press, on the ground that they were venders of news and information, have practically set them as watchmen and said to them: "Declare what thou seest," and have gone about our businesses and in troublous times we have cried out in the language of the old Hebrew prophet, "Watchman, what of the night! Watchman, what of the night!"

And the watchman has kept silent, thus saying: "All is well," when the thief is at the door.

"But if the watchman see the sword come and blow not the trumpet and the people be not warned; if the sword come and take any person from among them, his blood will I require at the watchman's hands."

Is it not high time that Richmond people were demanding an accounting at the hands of the Richmond papers by starting another paper here that would blow the trumpet in no uncertain tones when the sword of the spoiler and the grafter is at the heart of the people?

We defy the Democratic Committee to enumerate any moral or mental or physical qualifications in Mr. Ferrandini which would render him a fit committeeman.

Mr. Voter, it will pay you to read the above article over the second time, for if this state of affairs is to be bettered, you, the voter, must better it.

ANNOUNCEMENT.

In the future the Lynchburg Department will be run as a separate number, published at Lynchburg "semi-occasionally," as was done before the consolidation. The whole of the weekly published here will be devoted to Richmond.

THE POLLOCK TRUST

Pollock the Council
Pollock the Police Court
Pollock the Police Force

Councilman G. K. Pollock sustains a unique position in relation to the citizens of Richmond.

Before the city council meets Mr. Pollock can be seen smilingly clasping the hands of his fellow-councilmen and, with the most patronizing air, influencing them to see things his way even though the individual so influenced chances to be a man who would never stoop to be influenced by baser methods. On the floor of that body his smooth tongue and affable manner are a powerful factor in turning the tide when some fearless, out-spoken gentleman has turned on the light. He is popular because he is too shrewd and cunning to ever give offense and he wields his sceptre by his amazing suavity and his ability to mislead, which his legal training has given him. Understand us, the greatest compliment that can be paid any attorney in these days is that when he is pleading a case he can mislead the people into going his way although, on sober reflection, they would act the reverse. Mr. Pollock can lead councilmen against their will by showing them that an action which means one thing means another.

But his greatest power is in committee. Here his natural abilities, together with his inclinations, give him prestige, and for some reason or other, best known to councilmen, they follow his wish.

The others do a lot of blind talking and then Mr. Pollock arises and straightens things out for them and, like sheep, they follow his lead. There would be no need for this writing if the citizens did not neglect their duty to themselves by absenting themselves from these committee meetings.

To understand fully how this committee business is run would require a knowledge of what goes on between the powers that be before the committees meet and a knowledge of the relation of the councilmen with the city committee, the machine This matter, however, will have to be reserved for another issue.

We hasten to the matter of the police force. Mr. Pollock's brother is in charge of the office force of the Chief of Police, and it requires no stretch of the imagination to see the relationship between the individual policeman and the councilman who is thus vested directly and indirectly with so much power. Mr. Pollock can thus get in touch with inside information as to arrests, and since the police search each prisoner he can easily know how much money they have on their person to pay lawyers' fees with.

THE POLICE COURT.

Last and by no means least comes Pollock of the police court. When we first visited this court we thought from his actions that he was an officer of the court. He was hovering over Justice John, he was instructing policemen, and bore a mein of authority that no other person present dared to affect.

We soon found that his authority was less affected than real. For nine-tenths of the cases which came up seemed to be represented, when there was council, by Mr. G. K. Pollock, and, what was most remarkable, was the change in the attitude of the court toward the prisoner when Pollock was the attorney.

Before going further, let me insist that you go into this court and we are sure you will have no trouble in verifying our statements. The matter has gotten to be so flagrant that other attorneys have almost entirely neglected this feature of legal practice, and, because of the odium of such action, even seem to look down on any connection with this kind of practice.

But, to get back to the subject. On Monday morning last two policemen brought into court two darkies charged with a grave offense. The case being called tangible evidence was

brought forth and it looked like a case of sending to a higher court when Pollock appeared on the scene representing the negroes. After a very hurried conversation between Pollock, and the Justice and the policeman, the Justice waved his hand and the negroes walked off, and then, what happened? The policeman's face turned white. He looked thunderstruck. "Dismissed?" He seemed absolutely astounded and started to voice a protest or insist on a hearing, but Mr. Pollock simply pointed his finger at him and grinned and the Justice called the next case and the astonished police retired one way as the grinning attorney went the other, and the smile passed around the court-room.

Now, contrast this with the next case. A white man and a negro appear. The Justice asks the complainant, "Did that fellow catch hold of you and pull you?" Answer, "Yes." "Fine him $10," says the court, and the poor defendant is hurried away without the faintest shadow of a trial, and, what's more, if the poor fellow had desired to say anything and been given the opportunity, as is sometimes done, the remarks of the Justice were so harsh and bulldozing the prisoner would have been so confused that he could not defend himself.

In the name of good government; in the name of justice to prisoners; in the name of common decency; in the name of the lawyers of Richmond; in the name of all that is right and good, such farces as can be seen daily in the police court of Richmond should be stopped. The power of Pollock should be destroyed, and the methods of Justice John should be superseded by justice and dignity.

We would further inquire what connection with the court Mr. Lehman has? Why is he always on hand as Pollock's right hand man? Can't the court get along without him?

Also, is it necessary to have Mr. Gunst shadowing the court? Should Pollock and Gunst, because they are councilmen, be permitted to exercise privileges which other citizens cannot have? But our space is limited; we must take this up again later.

When we get through with treating the smaller courts and committees and men, we will have some very pertinent things to tell concerning men and measures higher up.

THE NEWS LEADER SCANDAL

A Suit Against the Evening Paper

The Circulation Contest Declared Unfair and Illegal.

Rumor has been rife for some time to the effect that a suit would shortly be entered against the *News Leader* for declaring Mr. S. M. Bowman, of "The Tuxedo," the winner of the first prize in the circulation contest, which ended May 6th last, on the ground that Mr. Bowman's list was not a *bona fide* subscription list, but that he gained the $5,000 home in Woodland Heights by planking down enough cash at the last moment to overcome the lead attained, at the expense of actual *bona fide* solicitation, which meant much time and labor by Dr. C. V. Carrington and Mrs. Walter Duke and others.

Of course, Dr. Carrington and Mrs. Duke felt aggrieved at the unfairness, as was natural and right, for they had entered the contest thinking they would be given a square deal, so a suit was planned to compel the *News Leader* to award Dr. Carrington the first prize, and Mrs. Duke the second, and so on, down the list. Meantime, it develops that the Leader is attempting to avoid a suit by asking the court for a legal opinion. It can readily be seen that if the contestants accept the *News Leader's* attempt to deprive them of their suit by such a compromise, that they will not stand the chance of getting a favorable decision, which they would if a suit was entered in their own name, for if they were paying for a contest, you can rest assured that their interest would be looked after better than by the *Leader,* whose interests would be best conserved in a financial way by the retaining of Mr. Bowman's $3,000 or so. The interests of the two parties are so antagonistic that it would be strange if a suit entered by one would work to the advantage of the other.

It is remarkable that all the papers have kept entirely *mum* together about this scandal, while if it had occurred in Petersburg or Norfolk or Lynchburg, about which Richmond people care little, these papers would have made the welkin ring with their howl. But no, they are hand-in-glove with each other, and though there is perhaps nothing occurring at this time which the Richmond public is so interested in, still not a sound is heard, and more than a month has elapsed since the deal was pulled off.

Another point worthy of interest is this: That Mr. Bowman was also the winner of the building lot given as a prize to the one nominating the winner of the first prize.

It strikes us that the question which should actuate the *Leader* is not whether they have a *legal* right to accept Mr. Bowman's money and put them about $3,000 to the good; but whether they have a *moral* right to do so. The Richmond public is anxious to know whether they can expect anything fair from Richmond papers.

CEMENT PAVING WORK.

WHAT IT COSTS.

The City of Richmond is to-day having cement walks laid at a contract price of $1.04 a square yard. We have been to see four experts and cement contractors, whose standing, both morally and financially, is among the best in the city, to ascertain the actual cost of all materials used, and after careful figuring not one of them could figure that he could do the work *up to specifications* at anything like the figure of $1.04.

These four contractors show that the material alone for one cubic yard of concrete work, which is enough to make three and a half square yards of paving will cost, depending on the quantities bought and the time bought, etc., from $3.50 to $3.80 a cubic yard. This, it will be seen, would be $1.00 to $1.10 a square yard for the material alone, leaving out labor of excavation and laying and lumber. It will thus be seen that the city cannot get for $1.04 any cement paving which is up to specifications for the simple fact that the labor costs from 25 at the lowest, to 50 and 75 per cent more,

according to the amount of work required in excavating, etc. One of the contractors seen thought that to give the city good service and at the same time make a fair profit, the work should cost the city $1.75 a square yard. The lowest estimate we were able to get out of the four reliable contractors was $1.35, which would be a fair estimate for the work, and yet the city is paying only $1.04 for this work, which, if done according to specifications, would actually cost more than that amount.

Now, what does all this mean? It simply means that the inspection must be incompetent or, as it developed in the flume matter, worse than incompetent, and in either case the City Engineer, under whom the inspectors work, is to blame, and back of him the Mayor himself, who is the head of the city government, and who, as such, is to be held responsible, because he has the power and duty of removal from office of any of the city officials, and he is to blame if, after the matter is called to his attention, he does not remedy it.

There are walks all about the city of Richmond which the city has paid good hard coin of the people's tax money for, and which is to-day crumbling and fast wearing away, as if it were made of soft pulp, simply because not enough cement was used in its construction. It seems that if the work does not fall to pieces before the contractors turn it over to the city, the authorities pay and are satisfied, and at the end of a few months, when flaws show, and the rottenness appears, it requires thousands of dollars of investigation to find out how we got grafted, and the grafter goes on his way rejoicing.

In the flume matter the engineer neglected his duty by not providing competent and principled inspectors, and as a result he still holds his job, and is upheld by the Council, and work is being done to-day which, in all probability, will demand another investigation, with its enormous expense, and in all probability those who are to blame will still hold their own—and other people's, too.

MODERN METHODS.

How long will staid old Richmond tolerate this rotten and corrupt relic of the infancy of American government, this cumbersome outlandish councilmanic form, with no indi-

vidual responsibility, and no power in the hands of the people to throw off the yoke of tyranny. Government by commission is the only system ever yet found which will meet the needs of modern municipalities, and yet the overworked councilmen do not desire to give up their nice jobs to make way for a clean business administration.

How long would the Chesapeake and Ohio Railway or the Seaboard Air Line Railway, or any other big corporation run with the incompetent management that the city of Richmond has.

Competition, if nothing else, would have made railroads be economically managed, and city competition is doing its work in other States, notably Massachusetts, where the cities have to make to the State careful estimates of expenditures in all the departments, and show what all things cost on blanks furnished by the State. Thus a city can see how extravagantly they are run by comparing with other cities. But Virginia in this, is run, not by the people, but by Tom Martin's ring, which occupies the same relation to the State that Clyde Saunders' ring does to the city, and therefore, Virginia is about fifty years behind the times. We are dominated in Virginia by a so-called Democratic party, which is nothing, in fact, but a partisan ring of grafters, and the people actually do not run the government at all, and never will until they get over their fear of expressing their own opinion.

COMMONWEALTH'S ATTORNEY.

In looking over the records of the two candidates for Commonwealth's Attorney we are struck with the vast divergence between them. Richmond citizens should know that Mr. Folkes' record is by no means on anything like the same plane as that of Mr. Cary, who aspires to serve the city as his successor. We will not go into the details of the investigations into the actions of Mr. Folkes, but we simply desire to state that there is a marked contrast in the records of the two men. It should not take a citizen long to decide that he should raise the moral tone of Richmond political life by putting into office a man of the standing of Hunsden Cary. Why is it that we insist on giving our votes to a man for a political

office who, if he were contending for a private honor, would have no show whatever in competition with a man of the lofty ideals of a Cary? Why is it that we have one standard of judging the fitness for political office and another for private trust?

It is high time we were arousing ourselves to the point of giving some care to our city government before we are overwhelmed with such corruption as Pittsburg and 'Frisco, and other cities have found upon them.

Richmond citizens could in no way serve their city better than by making such a man their attorney. They have an opportunity which seldom presents itself to a city, of placing in authority not only a man who is not simply a negatively good man, but one who is actuated by the highest motives and ruled by the loftiest ideals. The highest compliment we can pay him is that the ring is absolutely against him, and certain low elements are declaring for his opponent.

CITY SERGEANT.

We have just learned that the City Sergeant, Mr. Smith, last week, purchased a lot of decayed fish, which had already been discarded, and were ready to be thrown away, at an absurdly low price. These fish were for the prisoners at the jail. Yet Mr. Smith asks for our votes for City Sergeant. It strikes us that the citizens would do themselves a favor by voting for Mr. Satterfield, whose canvass has shown that the citizens have a right to expect from him an efficient and satisfactory management of this important office.

AN APPRECIATION.

Editor The Idea:—Permit me to congratulate the city that at last there is a publication absolutely fair and *independent* and courageous. I do not wish to infer that our dailies are not doing good work—they are—but it cannot be denied by any impartial man that the papers of Richmond are hand-in-glove in many matters that affect the public weal to its detriment. The Idea seems to fill a long-felt want, and it should receive a hearty welcome among all fair-minded people.

Its stand for *civic righteousness* will displease those who profit by evil means, but the Christian element will sustain you. Now, "hew to the line, let the chips fall where they may."

June 15, 1909. T. H. K.

JUSTICE IN COURT.

Recently in the police court we saw violators of the law go scot free for some unknown reasons, and yet, when a policeman told of arresting a poor negro boy on mere circumstantial evidence, and very weak evidence at that, for stealing a bag of coal from the C. & O. Railway yards, the Police Justice gave the unfortunate fellow sixty days with not even a chance to refute the charge of the police. We have noticed both here and in Lynchburg that one charged with a petty offense against a railway company has no more show than the proverbial snowflake in the dominions of his satanic majesty.

If, however, you steal a house, and steal enough money along with it, and the best kind of evidence is against you, you can get off scot free; *i. e.,* if you have any influence with those that rule the court.

There will be some who will think, after carefully studying the red light bordy house question, that it is a greater evil than the saloon, but the saloon is far greater in that it is largely responsible for the other evil.

Up in Lynchburg and Bristol, since the towns went dry, the bordy house business is on the decline.

The dealer in prostitution knows that his or her business will decrease with the curtailing of the whiskey business, and this is why you find on a wet and dry election day the prostitutes parading around, generally in carriages, with red ribbons on their dresses or their buggy whips. By the way, did you ever see a prostitute that ever wore a white ribbon bow on election day? Which side are you on—that of the decent women and children, or that of the vile prostitute?

We are here to hit from the shoulder, you know.

This little red paper is not published to veil our thoughts

or to so twist the reason out of argument and thus make it please everybody. Oh, no! Everybody is not going to be pleased with THE IDEA. For we expect to say what we think and no two people think alike. Our object is to make you think, and you can't deny that we have accomplished that. If you'll just keep thinking, you'll stay on the right track all right. We don't ask you to agree with us.

The American people were not more oppressed in the days of the English tyrants than they are now, but then they knew who to fight. Now the tyrant is a class of their own kindred, which maintains its majesty by such secret and intricate means that it is almost impossible to frame the charge much less fix the blame. The tremendous fact, however, remains that Americans are in more abject slavery to-day than ever in the past, as is evidenced by the disease that is fastening its hold on the people and the sadness of dispair that is seen on the faces of an increasing number of the citizens brought about by the rapid rise in the prices of all things consumed with no corresponding rise in wages. We are profoundly impressed with the belief that the next few years will witness the overthrow of most of our public evils either by gradual evolution or hasty and destructive revolution. Unless the people are educated by the press to see the actual causes of existing evils, then we must expect violence.

If, on the other hand, the press is frank and faithful to the truth the people may be able, by the weapon of the ballot, to work out their own salvation without bloodshed. It is with the hope that this work on which we are now beginning in Richmond will help the people to make their fight with the ballot that THE IDEA offers itself to the public.

There is nothing so potent to overcome evil as a knowledge of the truth—publicity shall be our vocation, and may THE IDEA do its part in freedom's cause.

"I'll take some o' dat flesh-colored candy," said Sambo, the porter, as he pointed at the chocolate drops.

THE BUSINESS MANAGER.

BY WILLIAM J. NEIDIG.

(*As announced last week, we give below Mr. Neidig's excellent story of newspaper management as it appeared in La Follette's Magazine of January 9th. It will be of special interest to those who are interested in knowing why the daily papers sometimes have nothing to say on questions of very much interest.*)

CHAPTER I.

"So you've bought?"

"I've bought." Dorothy lingered on the steps a moment.

"You don't like it," she said at last when he did not reply.

"You know that I don't like it." His voice was grave and even, its tone that of a statement of fact, rather than of any displeasure. "You can't teach an old dog new tricks."

Dorothy sniffed. "You don't understand, Richard. Men can't. They have everything they want."

"Oh, have they!"

Dorothy returned up the steps. "Remember, you are not to bother me until Sunday."

"Not bother you?" said Richard, as he stood in the door. "I'll bother you to death!"

The door closed and he walked off down the street.

Dorothy Baker, the new owner, entered the editor's office and seated herself at the editor's desk. It was not a large room, but it was lighter than it had looked the day before.

She removed her hat, took off her gloves, opened the desk, wrote a few words across a card, and rang the bell.

"What is your name?" she asked when the boy appeared.

"John, ma'am."

"John, will you take this card to Mr. McGill?"

"Yes, ma'am."

"I wonder what he will be like," she thought. "I hope he will be pleasant."

While Dorothy was removing her gloves, the Business Manager of the *Argus*, in his own office, was weighing a fine "fat" advertising contract that has just been brought in by

Wylie, a free lance. The Business Manager laid his great bearded forefinger upon the contract.

"So you cinched young Mr. Brown!" he said bluntly.

Wylie was as pleased as a school boy over the praise implied.

"That's a gold-edge contract, ain't it? Twenty-five for two inches, two months. Why the rate is only fifteen, and you *would* take ten—you know you would, Mac."

The Business Manager grunted. "What do you want for it?"

"What do I want? Why, the square thing. Commission on the rate, seventy-five on the excess. Three seventy-five plus seven fifty. Eleven twenty-five."

The Business Manager did not attempt to bargain with the solicitor. He knew that Wylie, while perhaps ready to accept a lower rate, would feel that he in some way had been cheated, and would sooner or later "get even" by turning in paper that would not collect. In the world's history, no business manager has ever succeeded in getting the better of a free lance. At the same time, no free lance will take advantage of a man "in the business," if he is treated with tactful trust.

"Take it to the cashier."

The solicitor blew his breath across the wet writing until the moisture was taken up by the paper; then he lurched uncertainly toward the door.

"Say, Mac, about that two dollars—I'll pay you that on Monday."

"All right, Wylie."

The door closed softly.

"He will, too, the scoundrel," said the Business Manager, affectionately. "Wylie's as honest as gold. I wonder what kind of hooks he's got into Brown?"

"Heard you have a new editor," observed one of the loungers.

The Business Manager leaned back in his chair and smoked.

(*To be Continued.*)

LYLES' LAMENT.

(The Brilliant author of the following lines, died prematurely in Danville, Va., his old home, his death being hastened by strong drink:)

I have been to the funeral of all my hopes,
And entombed them one by one;
Not a tear was shed, not a word was said,
When the mournful task was done.

Slowly and sadly I turned me round;
And sought my silent room,
And there alone, by the cold hearth-stone,
I woo'ed the midnight gloom.

And as the night wind's frowzy shade,
Lowered above my brow,
I wept over days, when manhood's rays
Were brighter far than now.

The dying embers on the hearth,
Gave out their flickering light,
As if to say, this is the way
Thy life shall close in night.

I wept aloud in anguish sore,
O'er the blight of prospects fair;
While Demons laughed, and eager quaffed
My tears like nectar rare.

Through hell's red halls an echo rang,
An echo loud and long,
As in the bowl I plunged my soul,
In the might of madness strong:

And there within that sparkling glass,
I knew the cause to lie;
This *all* men own, from zone to zone,
Yet millions drink and die.

—*Richard W. Lyle.*

Newsboys!

10 PRIZES

To the Boy selling the largest number of copies of *The Idea* for the month of July we will give a *Handsome Watch*, and to the next nine we will give suitable prizes, to be announced later. Begin now by getting people to promise to take *The Idea* from you REGULARLY

The Very Idea!

GET IDEAS *at*
904 Capitol Street
next door to Park
Hotel, Corner 9th
and Broad Streets

AND

At CHRISTIAN'S, Corner 22d and Clay
And ABBOTT'S News-stand in Manchester

WEEKLY 5c THE COPY

THE IDEA

A SIGN OF THE TIMES

Vol. III June 26, 1909 No. 4

An Interview with the Mayor
The Business Manager
Duties of Police
And Other Articles of Moment in this Number

BEING SOME SERMONETTES PUBLISHED WEEKLY FOR THE COMMON GOOD AT RICHMOND, VIRGINIA, BY ADON A. YODER, Editor and Publisher, 904 Capitol St., Richmond, Va.

VIRGINIA

The following poem which went the rounds of the press about two years ago in a slightly altered form, seems so fitted to the purposes of our publication that we present it in its present shape in the hope that its frequent repetition will make it familiar to all in Virginia.

The roses nowhere bloom so white
As in Virginia;
And nowhere shines the sun so bright
As in Virginia;
The birds nowhere sing so sweet,
And nowhere hearts so lightly beat,
For heaven and earth both seem to meet
Down in Virginia.

The days are never quite so long
As in Virginia;
Nor quite so filled with happy song
As in Virginia;
And when my time has come to die,
Just take me back and let me lie,
Close where the James goes rolling by
In old Virginia.

There nowhere is a land so fair
As old Virginia;
So full of song and free of care
As old Virginia;
And I believe that happy land
The Lord's prepared for mortal man
Is built exactly on the plan
Of old Virginia.

THE IDEA

A Sign of the Times

VOL. III JUNE 26, 1909 No. 4

5 CENTS A COPY $2.00 A YEAR

Published Weekly on Saturday by ADON A. YODER,
904 Capitol Street, Richmond, Va.

Dangerous Doctrine

Mayor Richardson on Oath
Mayor Richardson in Office

A MARKED CONTRAST

An interview with the Mayor, in which he takes the position that his oath is not binding

In a former issue we showed that the law was being violated in Richmond, with the knowledge and sanction of the police and the Mayor. Since that time we have had an interview with the Mayor, in which he took the peculiar stand that conditions may exist, and do exist, under which his own personal opinion should have more weight in deciding his duty than his oath of office.

In the conversation, the Mayor took the astounding posi-

tion that an executive officer had the right to ignore the law if it was *his opinion* that to enforce the law would be unwise. Think of it! The opinion of one man may set aside the law made by the people! The servant of the people greater than the law that made him. The creature greater than the creator!

He was asked if he knew that the law was being violated flagrantly here, under the very nose of the police. His answer was yes, but that since it was impossible to entirely break up the crime, he took the position that it was best to ignore the law and attempt to control the crime.

We asked him if, since he could not stop the crime of murder by arresting for murder, he thought it wise to stop enforcing that law. He thought that was different. We asked if he did not think it a dangerous principle for an executive officer to say that his opinion of the worth of the law should have more weight than his oath of office. No, he thought, that an executive should use his "discretion in the enforcing of all laws."

Now, the point to be made here is this: That if such a position is tenable, then we might as well do away with all laws.

If a mayor has a right to say what laws he will enforce and what not, then why make any laws at all.

As a matter of fact, we have put no such power into the Mayor's hands. We have made laws by our Legislature, and here, and here only, does personal opinion have weight—in the making of the law, and not in the executing of it. The Legislature incorporates the city; decides what officers it shall have, and makes laws governing that city, and then permits that city to make certain minor laws and regulations carrying out the details of the general law.

The office of Mayor is made by the State, and given duties not simply by State statute, but by the very Constitution of the State, and the Mayor's first duty is to the State, and before he goes into office he swears "to support the Constitution of the State" before any other duties are enumerated. The oath he takes is as follows:

"I, D. C. Richardson, do solemnly swear that I will

support the Constitution of the United States, and the Constitution of the State of Virginia, ordained by the Convention which assembled in the City of Richmond on the twelfth day of June, 1901, and that I will faithfully and impartially discharge and perform all the duties incumbent upon me as Mayor, according to the best of my ability. So help me God!"

Thus we see that even if not only the Mayor, but if every citizen of the town should think a State law a bad one, the Mayor is bound by his oath to enforce it, for the Constitution which he swears to enforce also says in Section 120, page 239, Code of Virginia:

"The Mayor shall see that the duties of the various city officers, members of the police force and fire departments * * * are faithfully performed." and then, in Section 3927 of the Code in defining what these "duties of the police are," says: "It shall be the duty of said police to apprehend and carry before a justice, to be dealt with according to law, all persons whom they may be directed by the warrant of a justice to apprehend, or whom they have cause to suspect have violated, or intend to violate any law of the State."

We, therefore, find that the individual policeman is not only bound by oath to "apprehend" or arrest without any orders from anybody else, but that the Mayor is the recognized head and the only recognized head of the Police Department, and he swears to see to it that each officer does enforce all the laws of the State, and the oath does not have added, "Provided I think it wise," or "in my discretion," or "The Mayor may take what he considers a common-sense view of it." No, it says nothing of the kind. He swears away his private opinions of expediency, and agrees on oath to become the arm of the State, with an absolutely fixed duty concerning which he has no volition other than given him by that law.

Now, of course, the law gives the Mayor, as magistrate, as any other judge or judicial officer, certain limits *within the law*. For instance, a judge may give a criminal from one to one hundred days in jail for a given offense, as the law

may direct, using his own discretion as to what is best for the State within the limits of that law, but there is nowhere any provision for his doing away with the law or any part of it. The people alone, through their representatives, can do that, and the servant of the people, the Mayor, must agree to obey the people. If *they* have made a mistake, that's not *his* business. If you have a servant, and order him to perform a duty, and with a full knowledge of what that duty is, if he should swear to do it, and then refuse to do it on the grounds that you did not know what was best for yourself, would you not discharge that servant?

Such is the case of Mayor Richardson. He says: "I do solemnly swear" to do this, and then he says, "I do not think it wise" to keep my oath.

Now, there are different opinions, of course, as to the advisability of certain laws. Just now we will not consider that. If laws should be repealed, lets ask the Legislature to repeal them. But while they exist we should insist that the Mayor keep his oath.

Our opinions are only opinions, and if we permit such things to do away with statutes and constitutions, and oaths and duties, then we are indeed unfit to govern ourselves.

Will Take Mayor to Court To Compel Law Enforcement

The Idea will take proper legal steps

We have gotten so used to having men in office whom we did not expect to enforce the law that we have gotten callous and hardened to it, and do not know of any way of remedying. There is a way, however, and THE IDEA will take the proper steps to have the law enforced.

In standing for law enforcement, we are not standing for a fight against Mayor Richardson the man—the individ-

ual. We will, however, oppose Mr. Richardson, *the Mayor,* in his present policy of winking at crime.

He knows that the laws against gambling are being violated. The police know that these laws are being violated. They know that the laws against prostitution are being flagrantly and openly violated under cover of the police, and the police admit that they not only know it, but know the names of the violators. They say it is their business to know their names. They know that whiskey is being illegally sold in these brothels at high prices. They know that the price of beer at these blind tigers is one dollar a round: One dollar for one; or one dollar for two; or one dollar for five. They know that wines and other drinks are also to be had for the price in these midnight dens. They know that young men under twenty years of age can be seen at any time patronizing these places, and yet they say, "We have them under control," and if you push them close, they say, "You can't have perfect government." "Other cities have such sections." As if Richmond should sanction vice and crime just because forsooth, other towns do. Let Richmond be first among the cities of the Commonwealth! Let Richmond be first among the cities of the country! But if Richmond continues in its present policy, let Richmond take care that it be not last. A Richmond gentleman, who had traveled over Europe, had seen the tenderloins of Paris and London and New York, said the other day that Richmond was the worst place he had seen in this respect. We do not agree with him, and yet, what a shame to have Richmond compared with such seats of vice; with New York, where the sale of prostitution has corrupted politics and officers high up in the political life of the city. It has tainted the bench, bribed juries; made mayors and corrupted the voter.

Now, we are sure the good people of Richmond will not stand for this, and we are now ready to put into effect plans provided by State law to compel the enforcement of those laws.

The law provides that the State courts "may remove the Mayor of said city from office for malfeasance or misfeasance, or gross neglect of official duty," and the policy of the Mayor

in refusing to attempt to enforce the law will come under at least two of these causes enumerated above as ground for removal. The law further provides that all such proceedings against a mayor "shall be by order of or motion before said court."

Therefore, it becomes the duty, implied in the law, for the Hustings Court to enter proceedings "by order of" the court. In the event that the Mayor does not proceed to his duties as defined by the law herein set forth, and the proper court fails to take cognizance of it by issuing the proper order for proceedings, to compel such law enforcement, then THE IDEA will take the necessary steps to compel the Mayor either to enforce the law or vacate his office.

We do not desire to have to take this step, but in the name of good government we will do it if it becomes necessary. We trust the Mayor will see his duty and relieve us of this disagreeableness.

POLICE DUTIES

We state elsewhere the law concerning the duty of the individual police. We would call attention of each policeman to the fact that he is to look to no one of the Police Commissioners for instructions as to his duties. His duties are clearly defined by law, and no one can do away with that law; not even the Mayor himself. The only connection anyone has with the police force is to see that he does his duty, but no one can outline a policy for him.

When "a secret power" intimates to the police what he shall do and what not do, then it is the duty of the officer to ignore that power, and we promise any officer that if there is any personal reason why he feels he cannot enforce the law as he sees it, that if he will take a bold stand on the side of his duty, THE IDEA will see to it that he does not lose out. We know that men on the police force are prevented from doing their duty by those higher up, and we want them to feel that they have a voice that will de-

fend their acts in this publication. In the past individual police have stood out against the ring that would hold them down, and such individuals have been backed by the good people of Richmond, and have gained by it. Let no one fear to do his duty.

Section 1017*a* of the Code, says: "It shall be the duty of each and every one of such policemen to use his best endeavors to prevent the commission within the said city or town of offenses against the laws of said Commonwealth, and against the laws, ordinances and regulations of said city or town; to observe and *enforce all* such laws, ordinances and regulations; to detect and arrest offenders against the same, etc." Thus you see the State gives directly to the police his duty, and does not say he shall be governed by any body or individual as to the law enforcement.

The law gives the police broad authority further, by stating: "The officers and privates constituting the police force of the cities, etc. * * * shall be, and are hereby, invested with all the power and authority which now belong to the office of constable at common law, in taking cognizance of and in enforcing the criminal laws of the Commonwealth."

This is a thing that citizens often forget, that police as State officers have duties which no authority can change, and yet, here in Richmond, we have police who don't enforce State law because certain secret powers don't want them to. Let these police beware, and enforce the law, and the good people of Richmond will rally to their support.

Is there not in Richmond one policeman who will regard his sworn duty above the power of any individual to do him harm.

In the next number we will expose more of the Police Court methods and practices. Articles are also under way concerning the detailed expenditures of the city departments, showing when the taxpayer comes in and how his money is wasted. We will also soon expose the Bell Telephone Company's methods.

If you want to know why the Richmond papers can't publish all the facts, read "The Business Manager," in this number.

> We shall have no strife with individuals *as individuals.* If they serve special interests, to the injury of the public, they are enemies of the public. Against them as enemies of the public we shall make war.—*La Follettes.*

The good people of Richmond who voted for Mayor Richardson do not know it, but it is true that if the powers behind the throne had not known that he would *not* do certain things usually expected of a Mayor, they would not have permitted his election.

THE BUSINESS MANAGER.

BY WILLIAM J. NEIDIG.

(*Concluded from last issue.*)

"Sure. Good man. Just out of college. He's got a little money, Bill says. Bill sold out to him last night. His name's Baker."

"Football?"

"Haven't seen him."

It was at this moment that the office boy entered with Dorothy's card. The Business Manager took it absently, read it, turned it over, frowned, and read it again.

"This is not intended for me," he said.

"Yes, sir. For you, sir. Mr. McGill, sir."

"Who sent it?"

"The lady in the back office, sir. She says as can you come in some time during this morning, sir."

"Good Lord, a woman!"

"Yes, sir."

"I'll have nothing to do with her! Tell her she can go to the devil for all of me."

"Yes, sir. I'll tell her, sir."

The office boy backed out of the door.

"Hold on!" cried the Business Manager. "Don't tell her that. Tell her I'll be in presently."

"Yes, sir."

"How old is she?

"I don't know, sir."

"Well, what are you standing there for? Tell her I'll be in presently."

The Business Manager walked nervously backward and forward across the room for some minutes without speaking, and then brought his huge fist down with a crash upon his desk.

"Curse Bill for a liar and a swindler, to sell out to a woman!" he said. "I won't stand for a woman!"

The new editor worked day and night at her desk, and at last had the satisfaction of seeing her first number in proof.

The paper, she explained in her leading article, was to be fearless and independent, as it had been in the past. It was to subserve no interests but those of the public. It was to be merciless in the exposure of evil wherever found. The principal editorial followed. It was a careful weighing of the advantages of municipal ownership, with respect especially to the water service of the city. Concrete comparisons were made between the cost of water under private management and the cost in cities where the municipality owned the plant. From the figures given, Dorothy was able to draw some pointed conclusions regarding the cost and efficiency of the local service.

She was reading the page proofs of that first number when the Business Manager burst into the office.

"Miss Baker," he said, "what is this attack on the Water Company?" And he laid his great finger against the column.

"Why," said Dorothy, "what is the matter with it?"

"You don't understand, Miss Baker. The Water Company is one of our most liberal contributors."

"Contributors? Writing?" Dorothy was puzzled.

"Money," said the Business Manager, shortly.

Dorothy grew white and her fingers trembled. She was not sure that she heard aright. She drew herself up.

"Money?"

"Money."

"I think," she said in a level voice, "that the article had better stand as it is. We do not need that kind of money."

She expected a storm, but instead the Business Manager became suddenly mild-mannered and acquiescent.

"Just so you understand," he explained. "It will show them that they can't buy us, won't it?" he continued. "Maybe it will do some good."

"A weak, unprincipled, vacillating man," thought Dorothy, as he left the room. "You have to be firm with these people. I think that he has been given a new idea with regard to editorial independence."

Could she have followed his movements during the next five minutes she would have seen her mistake. The Business Manager went straight to the composing room and ordered the offending article forwith to the "dead" galley.

"Close up the editorials," he said to the foreman, "and fill out the page with guff. You needn't send a proof to the lady. What under heaven does a woman know about water companies, anyhow?"

When the *Argus* appeared next day Dorothy found to her amazement that her carefully considered leader was followed by an article on "Kaffir Head-Dresses," and that the kernel of the page, the attack on the Water Company, was nowhere in sight.

Dorothy was shown into a small office in the rear of the banking room. Five or six others were in the room ahead of her. She had never before called on Richard at his place of business, and found it hard to realize that all these people were waiting to see him.

At last her turn came and she was admitted into the inner office. The dignity of his position seemed to invest Richard with an authority she had never before noticed. She seated herself humbly before him and awaited his pleasure. It was a moment or two before he looked up.

"Dorothy!" he cried, his eyes alight with pleasure.

"Please don't, Richard," she said. "This is business. I am in trouble. I want your advice."

She hurriedly explained the reason of her call. The Business Manager that morning had told her, kindly but clearly, that a heavy assessment would have to be levied upon the stock. The banks, he said, had refused to renew a loan, because of one of her editorials.

"It is not that I cannot afford the assessment," she said, "but somehow something about it seems wrong."

Richard aimlessly drew peonies on his letter-pad till she had finished. "He's trying to force you out," he said at last. "I suppose he thinks that because you are a woman that you will let him. Tell him I'll renew his loan."

Dorothy rose to go. She looked at Richard—clean, strong and wise, enlisted in her service. Her face was white and there was an uncertainty about the lines of her mouth that had been absent hitherto.

Richard hesitated a moment; then he wrote a few lines upon a slip of paper.

"I see you intend to fight," he continued. "Now, I own four dust-covered shares of *Argus* stock that no one knows anything about. It isn't worth very much, but we bankers never throw anything away that has shares written on it. Let me make you a loan of it for the time being. Vote it with your own, and send Mr. McGill about his business."

He did not think it necessary to explain that he had bought the stock of a water-front politician at ten times its value, not three days before.

In the fourth week of Dorothy's editorship an annoying fact came to her notice. She found her editorial page suddenly encroached upon by an advertisement across the foot—an advertisement for a Mexican lottery. As the leading article of the issue was in condemnation of gambling machines, and incidentally of lotteries, she sent for the Business Manager.

The Business Manager held out the page at arm's length. "Oh, let it go," he said. "It's not for the mail issue."

"Attack the lotteries in one breath, and advertise them in the next?"

"So we do! That's on them, isn't it!"

Dorothy was nettled. She explained that the tone of the paper required the exclusion of the advertisement, and when that argument had no effect she boldly made the issue that the contract for the space would have to be broken.

"It can't run, and that is all there is to it."

The Business Manager changed his manner. "Miss Baker," he said, "you don't seem to understand. I'm the business manager of this paper. You're only the *editor*—see? When I want business advice from you I'll ask for it."

"It is you who do not understand," said Dorothy, coldly, "that I am in control of this paper."

The Business Manager made no further pretense of courtesy. "You in control?" he snarled. "You? On Bill Yarrow's forty-eight shares? Good Lord!"

Dorothy fumbled among her pigeon-holes until she found Richard's note. She handed it to the Business Manager.

"Fifty-two, Mr. McGill, please."

For the moment the Business Manager was speechless with wrath; then he found his tongue. Raising his voice, he spoke to Dorothy as she had never been spoken to before. He tore the veil away from the *Argus* and from those who made it. She had supposed him stubborn, she had supposed him insensible to the subtler distinctions between good and evil; she had not supposed him quite what he was. The revelation took the form of an arraignment of herself. She sat with heaving breast and downcast eyes, her hands clutching in the folds of her dress until he was through.

"The tone of the paper!" she heard him say. "Your duty to your subscribers! Your subscribers! Do you know who are the subscribers for your paper? The Water Company! the Heilman Railroad! the Aikens Steel Works! that's who! And the Street Car Company! and old man Borchers! You're on his pay-roll, along with Councilman Rainer and Boss Slaker."

Dorothy did not attempt to stem the torrent of his scorn. He was telling her at last what she most desired to know. The Business Manager went on, in tense, nervous utterance.

"The tone of the paper! You're squeamish enough about the only square ad. in the paper, because it advertises a lottery and you're afraid people will notice, but you'll blink at the crooked ones all day if only nobody can find out! They pay in good money, and you have to have gloves and fans! How much do you suppose space in the *Argus* is actually worth? It isn't worth twenty-two cents, and you know it!

"I don't see why you bought into this paper, anyhow. The whole thing is a swindle, according to your views. This leather ad. for instance—how many readers of the *Argus* do you suppose buy leather belting? Or copper wire? A pure steal, nothing less. That leather ad. was brought in by a dishonest buyer for a manufacturing syndicate. He buys belting from these advertisers for more than it is worth, and then asks them to advertise in the *Argus,* and I pay him his cash commission. Nice business, isn't it? Clean money! The man's married and has two children. This steam engine ad. came through the same agency, and this, and this, and this."

He leaned over the top of Dorothy's desk.

"I tell you, there isn't a square ad. in your paper from heading to tail-period, for all your pretentions of virtue. Tone of the paper! Know how you get this artificial stone ad? Burns has a crooked deal on with the people in the city hall for the laying of stone walks in front of absentee property. Charges six prices and divides. Advertises to keep from being exposed.

Dorothy sat motionless, with pained eyes. Her head ached; she was sick at heart. He told of these things as though they were the commonplaces of business life, as though it were all a part of the business game. And then he mentioned Richard's name, and the world began to whirl round and round before her eyes until she had no sense of direction left.

"Blackmail, why don't you say? Solicitor saw the manager in a dive and got an ad. to keep his mouth shut. Or take this foundry ad. of your friend Richard Brown. Brown gave my man Wylie this ad. to keep his mouth shut—I leave you to guess the occasion."

Dorothy motioned him away wearily. "I wish that you would leave me," she said. "It doesn't do any good to talk so."

The Business Manager hardly heard her. "I admit you're in control all right," he continued, "and you can throw me over if you want to, with Brown's stock. Oh, I can see your moral position plain enough. It's to preserve the tone of the paper! I don't even guess how you came into possession of this timely stock. I don't even guess! You and Richard Brown! Both honorable people!"

Dorothy rose to her feet, her eyes blazing. "Leave my office this instant!" she cried.

McGill looked at her curiously, as though he were only now aware of her presence; then he set his teeth upon his cigar and stood rigid, facing her. He stood there for all of a long moment.

A final insolent leer, and a final insolent word; then, turning upon his heel, he left the room. When he had gone she locked the door, sank down at her desk, buried her face in her arms and sobbed as though her heart would break.

Richard opened the packet in amazement; then he snatched his hat, made for a cab, and in ten jumps was at Dorothys' door. Dorothy not in the house? How long had she been gone? It was very important that he should see her. Did they suppose that she was at the *Argus* office? He would look in and see. He ran his horses down town and in a reasonably short time found himself in the editor's office. And no Dorothy there! Then he raced back to her home.

Dorothy closed down her desk and went straight to her room. Richard, her white knight, of all men, to have a skeleton in his closet! Richard to be obliged to purchase vulgar secrecy of a man about town! Richard the wise, the honest. the defender of good deeds! It was too horrible to believe.

She did not know yet whether or not she believed it; but she gathered together her cherished trinkets in a pile upon her bed, and set about doing things that had to be done. Almost any woman would have believed it. According to the logic of the plain evidence, Richard was in the power of a common scoundrel, a man who traded upon his knowledge of rich men's

faults. The advertisement was merely so much hush-money. Dorothy's friendship—hush-money for it. His mother's pride and trust—hush-money bought it. His position in society, his reputation for honesty and truth—purchased, all of it, with hush-money. There was only one thing to do, after that.

And so she collected his letters and his picture; and she stripped his ring from her finger; and she added the baubles and trinkets that he had given her at one time or another; and sent them all back to him without so much as a note of explanation. And Richard received them so, and was now frantically trying to find her!

Dorothy never knew where she went that afternoon, nor what she did. Towards evening she returned to her desk on the *Argus,* from force of habit. She was at work there, arranging some correspondence, when the door opened softly. Behind her, hat in hand, stood a man. Apparently he had been drinking.

"Where's Mac?" he asked. "You're *Argus's* much as Mac, aren't you ma'am. Lend me two dollars till Mac comes, ma'am."

" I don't know you," said Dorothy in surprise.

"Oh, I'm all right. I'm Wylie. I know you, all right. You're Miss Dorothy Baker. I found some letters of yours once."

"Letters of mine?"

"Yes'm. Your picture, too. That's—that's how I know you. I took them to Mr. Brown," he persisted. "He knows you, too."

The mention of Richard's name sent the blood in a torrent to her face. She suddenly became interested.

"You took them to Mr. Brown. Took what?"

"Why, your letters. Yes'm. Your letters. He lost them.

"You wrote him letters and he lost them."

"When was this?" Dorothy managed to ask.

"He was white, Brown was. Gave me a good ad. for the *Argus.* That's his ad. on page three, under your hand. He's a fine man—a fine man. He's a fine man.

The advertisement indicated was the one that had caused

all the trouble! So that was how Richard had to buy silence! Dorothy sprang to her feet.

"I have an important engagement," she said hastily. "I have no change, but here is a bill for you. Please help me to find a cab." She closed her desk with a crash, slammed the door and hurried over to the elevator.

But that was as far as she got. She rang the bell, the car stopped at her floor, the gate opened for her. The next thing she knew she found her way blocked by Richard. His face was drawn and white.

"Dorothy," he cried.

"Richard! It was all a mistake!" she gasped.

Richard gently drew her aside. "Tell me about it," he said. "I told you I'd bother you to death!" After which there was nothing for her to do but to invite him into her office.

"Richard," said Dorothy, "you were right about the old dog and the new tricks. The *Argus* is beyond hope. And I've sent away the only business manager who could ever make the paper pay."

"Since there is a vacancy to fill," persisted Richard, "why not let me be your business manager?"

"You could not make the paper pay."

"What of that?"

"The sheriff would close you out inside of a week."

"What of that?"

"We'd have to suspend publication."

"What of that?"

"I believe, Richard," said Dorothy, looking him over, "that I will make you my business manager, after all. You seem to understand the needs of the *Argus* better than any other man I have ever known."

And it was so arranged.



SELECTED

And am I sober now,
Or am I drunk?
At least you will admit
I have not shrunk
From calling spades by name,
Nor ever yet
Have sold my birthright for
A pot of junk!

—*Elbert Hubbard*



Newsboys!

10 PRIZES

To the Boy selling the largest number of copies of *The Idea* for the month of July we will give a *Handsome Watch*, and to the next nine we will give suitable prizes, to be announced later. Begin now by getting people to promise to take *The Idea* from you REGULARLY

The Very Idea!

GET IDEAS *at*
904 Capitol Street
next door to Park
Hotel, Corner 9th
and Broad Streets

AND

Jefferson Pressing Club, 22d and Broad Sts.
MODEL NEWS CO., 519 W. Broad St.
And ABBOTT'S News-stand in Manchester

WEEKLY 5c THE COPY

THE IDEA

A SIGN OF THE TIMES

Vol. III July 3, 1909 No. 5

$7,500.00 Steal
Feel Graft, Breathe Graft
Chief of Police Scared
The Idea to Enforce the Law through the Courts
Richmond Papers Unfair
Mystery—A Poem

Announcements and other Articles of Moment in this Number

FOR SALE AT ALL NEWS STANDS

BEING SOME SERMONETTES PUBLISHED WEEKLY FOR THE COMMON GOOD AT RICHMOND, VIRGINIA, BY ADON A. YODER, Editor and Publisher, 904 Capitol St., Richmond, Va.

A RHYME OF THE DREAM-MAKER MAN

Down near the end of the wandering lane,
That runs 'round the cares of the day,
Where Conscience and Memory meet and explain
Their quaint little quarrels away,
A misty air-castle sits back in the dusk,
Where brownies and hobgoblins dwell,
And this is the home
Of a busy old gnome,
Who is making up dream things to sell,
My dear.
The daintest dream things to sell.

He makes golden dreams out of wicked men's sighs,
He weaves on the thread of a hope
The airest fancies of pretty brown eyes,
And patterns his work with a trope.
The breath of a rose and the blush of a wish
Boiled down to the ghost of a bliss,
He wraps in a smile
Every once and awhile
And calls it the dream of a kiss,
Dear heart.
The dream of an unknown kiss.

Last night when I walked through the portals of sleep
And came to the weird little den,
I looked in the place where the elfman should keep
A dream that I buy now and then,
'Tis only the sweet, happy dream of a day—
Yet one that I wish may come true—
But I learned from the elf
That you'd been there yourself,
And he'd given my dream to you.

—William Allen White.

THE IDEA

A Sign of the Times

VOL. III JULY 3, 1909 NO. 5

5 CENTS A COPY $2.00 A YEAR

Published Weekly on Saturday by ADON A. YODER,
904 Capitol Street, Richmond, Va.

WERNER SCARED

Chief Afraid to Talk
Knows he Can't Defend his Acts

A Double Charge against both Mayor and Chief. The Idea to institute proceedings.

On Tuesday of this week we called on the Chief of Police to ascertain why the police are instructed to ignore their duty and their oaths in reference to law enforcement. When we asked Mr. Werner why the police were instructed to ignore the law when certain parties were violators, he answered—and it sounded like he was trying to quote word for word what he had been told—"I shall have to refuse to answer you."

We asked "Why?"

And he replied, "Because you are publishing THE IDEA." Which, being interpreted, means—my position is so defenceless that I'd rather keep quiet than to give myself away.

The chief knows that he has not only violated his oath in

not enforcing the law, but that he is doubly guilty in that he issues orders to the police restraining them from keeping their oaths. He prevents officers from doing their duty. He not only as a State officer refuses to do a State duty, but he "interferes with other officers in the performance of their duties."

And THE IDEA charges that any man, be he chief or mayor, or the humblest citizen who takes an oath to serve his state, and then after getting into office violates that oath, is a *traitor* to his state, and the citizens should demand his official head.

Now THE IDEA will act for the citizens who have felt all along that they could not get the laws enforced. We will show the officers—or rather, *these servants* of the people that there is a power in the machinery of justice to compel them to do their duty. We count ourselves *fortunate in being able to make the following announcement concerning our financial backing*:

In the last few days very wealthy interests have offered THE IDEA their moral and financial backing to employ a fearless and wise lawyer to prosecute those who have refused to obey the law, or get a mandamus to compel them to obey the law. These men, elected to serve the people, have turned upon the people who elected them and said, we will not only not obey the order of you, our masters, but we actually defy you to try to make us regard our oaths. THE IDEA, in the name of the law abiding citizens of Richmond, is now formulating its case and will shortly announce the name of an attorney who will *compel* the servants to obey or have these servants discharged.

There are those who profess to believe that THE IDEA has started out for the purpose of making money and that we will shortly go to pieces.

We will show them that we have started out to *spend some money* in cleaning the political and moral atmosphere not only of Richmond, but of every city in the State.

When we have shown Virginians that they are not the slaves to the petty politicians they thought they were—when we have shown them that there is a way to make a servant *serve* instead of *boss*, when we have put on trial men high up

in the judicial and executive branches of the government, and when these men have to step down and out or go to jail and give place to men whose oaths and whose deeds can be made to agree, then indeed will the cities throughout Virginia demand that their petty servants also get busy and there will ensue in Virginia a season of law enforcement which shall give the lie direct to those who say "prohibition don't prohibit," or "our mayor won't prosecute the big evil-doer."

We take this stand in the name of law and order, and we are confident what the result will be.

Beware! Mr. Mayor, Beware!

Beware! Mr. Chief, Beware!

We quietly told the Chief of Police as we left him that we would take other means to know why he would not enforce the law and we *have* taken them and we *know* that he don't enforce the law because he is not big enough to do his duty of his own initiative and he is held under the thumb of those who know how to manage him and get him into trouble. Now there are two things he can do. He can say to those who would boss him,—"Henceforth I will do my duty regardless of what any one says as to loosing my job. I will enforce the law and if the police commissioners or the mayor demand my resignation I will take it before the people and rest my case with them." And we will guarantee that the people will stand by him. On the other hand he can say,—"I'm not man enough to fight the ring that keeps the law from being enforced, so I'll just do as I am told and keep quiet." And we'll promise him that he'll find himself in the hands of the courts, whose laws in this respect are so plain that they will land him without the pale of office.

Beware! Beware! Beware!

"The idea sometimes expressed that judges on the bench are above criticism in a democracy like ours is not tenable. Our courts require the most constant scrutiny and the sharpest solicitude on the part of citizens to keep them above suspicion. It would be ridiculous. . . to assume that political lawyers . . . are suddenly transformed into human paragons. . . . The American bench will be respected purely *on its merits*, and not

through the preaching of the doctrine of exaggerated respect for the courts regardless of the character and conduct of the judges."—*Editorial Jan'y Review of Reviews.*

$7,500.00 STEAL

Graft in the Council

How the People Pay the Bill on the Million and a Half Bond issue

City Engineer estimates that it will take a year to spend the money.

The council has just sold bonds amounting to $1,500,000 in one lump sum at par.

These bonds of the city with the credit Richmond has, were sold hurriedly at par and individual bidders were not permitted to buy small sums of these bonds, although there are many Richmonders and others who would gladly have gotten them at more than par and would not have taxed the city any commission for selling them.

Yet the city council sold them without giving the small bidder a chance and thus lost to the city large sums of money, but what is worse than this is the fact that the taxpayers of Richmond will have to pay interest at four per cent. on this bond issue until it is paid for and the city engineer informs us that it will take about a year to spend this million and a half, and we are reliably informed that it may take two years or more. That means that this money will lay idle in bank and we will receive only three per cent. on it, thus losing one per cent. by borrowing money (for that is what issuing bonds is), before we need it. Now one per cent. lost on a million and a half dollars for an average of six months is $7,500, that we.

the citizens, lay out in interest on borrowed money just in order to keep a big bank account. And the tax payer don't kick because the newspapers don't expose these rascals.

Later we will have a more detailed statement to make concerning these big deals pulled off publicly without a word of criticism on the part of the press, to whom we naturally look to protect us from mismanagement and graft. We will show why these papers keep quiet. We will show where they come in.

RICHMOND PAPERS UNFAIR

We print below, without asking his consent, a letter from Mr. R. S. Barbour, of the Barbour Buggy Co., of South Boston, which speaks for itself. It seems to be a pretty general view elsewhere than in Richmond that the Richmond daily papers are bought out by the whiskey interests.

June 16, 1909.

Mr. Adon Yoder,
904 Capitol St.,
Richmond, Va.

Dear Sir:—I accidentally got hold of one of your Ideas this morning and I enjoyed reading it very much and I want to congratulate you on the firm and fearless stand you are taking in fighting the great evils that now exist in our country, and I believe if you will continue this fight you will do an immense amount of good in opening the eyes of the public to the great evils that exist, in our cities especially, to-day. I hope it may be your pleasure to put your periodical in the hands of our newsboy here as I want to get a copy of it every time it comes out. If I cannot get it through the newsboy, kindly let me know and I will send you my subscription direct.

I congratulate you heartily on the fearless way in which you attack the strong hands of Satan through our servants, and I am certain you will do great good. I want to heartily commend what you have to say about the miserable unfair re-

ports given by the Press generally, and especially the *Times-Dispatch* regarding the Anti-Saloon League work, as they have been manifestly unfair in every particular, and I have recently had quite a hot correspondence with Mr. Jno. S. Bryan along that line. I am indeed glad to know that there is one periodical in the city of Richmond that will speak out in no uncertain terms and language for the "DRY" side.

Yours very truly,

RSB—F. R. S. Barbour.

COMPLETE EDITION SOLD

LAST TWO ISSUES.

The Idea takes pleasure in announcing that the complete edition of the last two numbers of The Idea were in each case exhausted within a few hours after placing them on sale. The average number of copies placed in circulation during the past four weeks in which The Idea has been published has been slightly over 5,200 copies per issue.

To advertisers the above fact should be especially interesting as an ad. placed in The Idea has not only a circulation of so many actual copies but it should be borne in mind that an ad. in The Idea will be read by from three to five people for each number making an ad. placed before 15,000 people at the small present rate of $10 a page. Hand bills to reach this number of people, printed on the cheapest of paper would cost delivered, infinitely more than the small sum of $10.00 and then in all probability would not be read by one out of every ten who receives them. Our advertising space will be limited so that one carrying an ad. with us can be sure that his ad. will be seen. This is not true of an ad. in a daily paper. Daily paper ads. are so numerous that no one can attempt to see them all. Then lastly magazine ads. are in permanent form;—the magazine will lay around on your table for a month, while the daily paper will be destroyed tomorrow. Each magazine ad. will be read by several times as many people as read a daily paper ad.

WE THANK YOU

AN APPRECIATION.

Our time has been so limited that we have to take this means of replying to the many expressions of good will and goodspeed we have received in the past weeks. It has been no little pleasure to us to have received from the good citizens of Richmond so many communications both by mail and in person commending our efforts at exposing the evil. Men in all walks of life—business men, lawyers, doctors, merchants, preachers, teachers, contractors, mechanics, etc., have called or written to thank and to offer their aid in making our goodly city what it should be, the very best in the land. We regret that we have not space to reproduce letters received, not only from residents of Richmond, but from others throughout the State, for THE IDEA—be it known—has a goodly circulation, not only in Richmond, but in Lynchburg and many other towns and even in many other States.

WHISKEY ADS.

When you see an ad. for some baby food you will nearly always find in it a picture of a healthy fine looking baby. The advertiser wants to lay stress on the good results gained by using his food, so he shows the picture of one who has used it;—he shows *the finished product.*

When you read an ad. for a hog food you will see a picture of a fine fat hog in it. Likewise with poultry and all manner of stock foods; the advertiser in each case shows you the effect his food will have on the user by picturing to you the *finished product.* On the other hand when a whiskey advertiser wants to advertise his wares he does *not* show you a picture of a drunkard, which is his finished product. Oh no, he appeals to your appetite alone. He appeals to you to ignore the results in seeking short and present pleasure. He appeals to passion rather than to reason, and instead of showing you a drunkard he is careful, if he give any picture whatever, to show you that of an innocent girl, healthy, and strong, and beautiful as a result of the fact that she is not only inno-

cent, but her parents have looked after her health by not drinking themselves. Did you know that whiskey and other strong drink always is likely to injure the health of your children much more than it appears to injure your own. Creation has made man so strong that it takes a generation for his sins to have their results.

What do some of our prominent politicians and lawyers mean when they say—If I should tell what I know, there would be a lot of people who would go and jump in the river.

It is a sad state of affairs for an individual or a city to be told by the servants when they ask their servants concerning their business, "I can't talk, but there is a lot of rascality going on," or "my hands are tied for if I tell what I know it would be traced to me and I'd lose my job."

We understand that the corrupt politicians and whiskey people are going to publish a magazine to defend their evil deeds against the onslaughts of The Idea.

We trust they will hurry up and get out an interesting and formidable one as we are just itching for a scrap.

KEEP IT UP

Since The Idea began its work we have noticed some improvement in the daily papers in regard to both the liquor question and the graft question. The *News Leader* is not saying as much as formerly about the whiskey question, and the *Times-Dispatch* is actually trying to get some of the glory of exposing the evils by jumping in the band wagon and telling the people that there is gambling going on in certain quarters, but it is worth while to notice that the *Times-Dispatch*, tho' we understand they know the names of the parties they referred to, did not tell the people in their recent article who the guilty ones were that were gambling on Main Street, nor did they tell why the police do not attempt to prosecute these offenders against the law, nor did they even dare to criticise the chief or any one for winking at crime.

OUTSIDE INTERFERENCE IN LOCAL MATTERS

Now and then a paper, whose editor has perhaps received a case of wine or extra valuable whiskey *free gratis* FOR NOTHING from a friend among the whiskey fraternity, in the heat of *ardent* gratitude flourishes his pen and indites editorial tommy rot against the Anti-Saloon League for employing speakers from out of town, and charges that these *outsiders* are *interfering.*

In Petersburg they did that and the Richmond papers said amen, we want none of this *interference.*

Let's get at the facts of the case.

OUTSIDE MONEY OR OUTSIDE BRAINS WITH LOCAL MONEY.

Stop a minute and consider where the whiskey money, that fought against the local league of citizens, came from in the Petersburg campaign, and in the Lynchburg campaign.

It is a well known fact that the wholesale brewers and distillers from the West and the North sent large sums of money into Petersburg and Lynchburg to employ speakers and defray the expenses of the campaign conducted against the local interests of the citizens of these towns. In Petersburg they had things so much their own way that they did not find it necessary to get outside speakers, though in Lynchburg they got them from as far west as Chicago, and the head of the fighting organization in Lynchburg was a beer-sounding name from Washington. Yet this is of small consideration, where the speakers came from, when we think of who furnished the money to pay these speakers. Did Petersburg money finance the dry or wet side. *Home money paid the bill in Petersburg for the Drys and outside money paid the bill in Petersburg for the Wets.* Home money paid the bill in Lynchburg for the Drys and outside money helped pay the bill for the Wets.

In Lynchburg the fight cost Lynchburg business men about $5,000 of voluntary contributions to put down the saloon. Lynchburg business men went down into their pockets and gave liberally, for an immense amount of press work paid for as large advertisements in the Lynchburg papers, and a large office force to tabulate and work on the lists of voters,

so as to be able to challenge the vote of any one offering to vote illegally, and a small per-cent. of this amount was spent in getting outside speakers to come and help by their oratory. Seaborn Wright, of Georgia, came; and Governor Glenn, of Carolina, came, and Governor Glenn refused to accept any more than the small sum of fifty or sixty dollars (we've forgotten which) to defray the expenses of his trip. The whiskey people will not deny that the money they spent came largely from the brewers and the distillers. They will not make public what amounts they spent for speakers as the Anti-Saloon League always will do. Nor will they tell the total amount spent by them in *any* given fight. Nor have we ever seen that they gave to the people an itemized statement of who gave the money, or for what any of it was spent.

If they would do this just once the people would be so indignant that the saloon would have to go and go quick. Let them fight in the open if they dare to. They don't dare to "because their deeds are evil."

Let the whiskey press and the whiskey people fool you with terms of *interference* and outsider?

The local Anti-Saloon Leagues have no apology to offer for giving their own home money to outside speakers to help them throw off an evil largely controled by *outside* brewers and distillers.

Note this. HOME interests alone are helped by a town going dry.

OUTSIDE interests are very much helped by a town going wet. When the fight comes will you fight for your home interests or for the brewers of Milwaukee and the Distillers of Kentucky?

WHAT HAS BECOME OF THE WHISKEY EDITORIALS IN THE DAILY PAPERS?

HAVE THE BREWER AND THE WHISKEY MERCHANT STOPPED SETTLING?

Articles on "The Police Court," and "Feel Graft: Breathe Graft," through lack of space, have been held over till next week.

HOW TO STOP THE STEAL—RICHMONDERS, GET THIS.

Let every citizen who has at heart the interests of Richmond and who desire to know how to stop the grafter in his stealing read the story of how the great Graft Prosecution was started in San Francisco by a small paper, *The Bulletin.*

This most interesting and yet astonishing story is told in *McClure's Magazine* for July.

A SQUARE DEAL.

HONEST FIGURES.

Every now and then the whiskey press agents succeed in getting into the papers certain allusions to Maine tending to show that no license is a failure there, but, in every instance, they fail to give any actual, tangible and fair comparisons between that and other States which have tabulated results.

A Richmond paper recently went so far afield in its search for some argument that it compared Maine with certain European States. The whiskey people are indeed getting desperate in these days. There never has been a time when they spent so much money in press work as now and the fool that believes they would do it if prohibition did not prohibit has sadly—well, we don't believe that such ones are here in Richmond.

We clip the following from the *Literary Digest*, perhaps the most fair-minded and unbiased paper in America to-day:

Results of Prohibition in Worcester.—Worcester, Massachusetts, is the first city of more than one hundred thousand population to vote no license twice in succession under a local option dispensation. The Massachusetts No-License League has issued a report of results during the past year, showing that arrests have declined in the following ratios: For drunkenness, from 3,924 to 1,843; for assault and battery, from 382 to 263; for larceny, from 343 to 255; for neglect and non-support, from 112 to 87; for disturbing the peace, from 210 to 109. Patients in the alcoholic ward at the City Hospital decreased from 274 to 144, and deaths from

alcoholism, from 30 to 6. *The Survey* (New York) summarizes other features of the report as follows:

"Apparently, liquor selling will be entirely discontinued the coming year, except for 'original packages' shipped in. Some of the saloons kept open a part of the first year, selling soft drinks, but they all closed when the city voted 'no' the second time. Eight liquor licenses held by drug stores resulted in a recorded sale of 96,190 'packages'—one-quarter of them quart bottles, most of the remainder half-pints. Only one of these licenses was renewed for this year."

Certain Richmond papers are continually giving prominence to worthless articles of unknown or obscure writers pretending to show the evils of no-license. We wonder why they do not quote from the national weekly magazines which, from their very nature, can give a fair estimate of the values of prohibition. It is a remarkable fact that nearly every weekly of prominence in America has taken a decided stand against the whiskey traffic. But one who did not know this would get the opinion from the daily local papers that no such condition exists. The reason that the weeklies take this stand for the abolition of the licensed saloon is that they can afford to be independent. The Richmond daily papers can't.

It is also a remarkable fact that there is hardly a single weekly or monthly magazine of national prominence left in America that will print a whiskey advertisement in their papers. These papers put such ads. in the class with immoral and obscene literature.

A question for the citizen. Do the police have to pay for election to the police force? We understand they do.

Who gets the money, somebody who has nothing to do with the police, or—or—or—or somebody else? "Think on these things."

We wonder why it is that a negro woman is fined heavily for selling ten cents worth of whiskey without a license, and yet the police permit whiskey and wine and beer to be sold every day and night and on Sunday by the inhabitants of Mayo Street.

A LITTLE FOLLY

"A little folly now and then is relished by the wisest men." We have just received the following few lines which we publish, without editing, for the sole reason that they brought a smile to the faces of all in our office and that ought to be sufficient reason for its insertion amongst the more serious articles which otherwise fill our pages.

June 21st 1909

(Editor The Idea

Please give me space to tell what becomes of the kind of polititions you have just turned the light on.)

Man that is born of a woman is small potatoes and few in a hill. In infancy he is full of colic and catnip tea, and in old age he is full of cuss words and rheumatism.

In youth his mother taketh him across her knee and sweetens his life with her slipper, and when he is a man grown the sheriff pursueth him all the days of his life. He spreadeth like a bay tree. He getteth into office, and his friends cling to him like flies to a sugar barrel. He sweleth with vanity and cutteth ice for a while, but he is hewn down at the next convention and cast into the salt box and his name is Dennis. Out of office and out of friends he soon gets busted and lieth down in the cow-pasture beside the still waters of the brook. He dieth out of the world and goeth where it is warm enough without clothes. The last end of that man is worse than the beginning. A Machinist.

TO MYSTERY.

(A Soliloquy.)

O Mystery! cold Mystery!
Deep is thy stream and black,
As black as night and cold;
Broad are thy banks and far between;
Thy fall is slow,
And slow thy onward flow;
So weird art thou, and secret too,
That none may know

Whence thou hast come
Or wither thou wilt go.

I stand at midnight on thy marshy brink,
And try to pierce with eyes distend thy darkness thick:
O Mystery! hear thou my cry,
My prayer disconsolate,
The pleading meditation of my soul,
And tell me what is life,
Its whither and its whence,
For you two waters flow not separate.
O Mystery! drear Mystery!
O what is life, and what are we
That have it, yet so meagerly?
And what is action?
This changing, writhing, unending energy,
This scene so meaningless,
This strife so fierce—to know?
And what is time?
Is it spread on into eternity?
And life and time, do they together flow?
And does time stop when life stops here below?
"If a man die, shall he live again?"
And in another time?
Or shall time be no more, nor life?
And now we know no more
That which went on before
This life;
Shall then we know this life
When it, its care, its strife,
Be o'er?
And if life go at all, where does it go?
And does it rest a while, or what, or what?
When that great change does come,
Is it but for a while; is it fore'er?
And what is death?
Does it exist, or is it not?
But negativity and nothingness?
O speak, and let me know,
And let me know, and let me know.
Is there any knowledge for finite minds to know?
Did ever man know anything?
Its murmuring answer "No,"
From gurgling depths below
It seems to come and go;
"No, no, no, no;

Thou canst not know,
Till thou out from this life do go."
And the river's murmuring flow
Tells me, if I would but go
Down its steep steps, beneath its depths,
That I might know.
And then, in murmurs low—
That back I might not go,
Nor trace my footsteps o'er,
For life could be no more,
If it did know.
"I'll dive into thy depths," I cry;
"Thou'lt take no more than life? I'll die."
I plunge; 'tis cold, 'tis passing cold;
All's dark, but downward still I hold
My course from high.
I and myself are parting ways,
For light I see which quick doth daze
My spirit eye,—
My mind's perception part.
And yet I do not know,
But its increasing glow
Doth light me as I go
Deep down thy depths below,
O Mystery!

And though I yet can't know,
Its increase, ever slow,
Grows bright for me.
My soul's dark ignorance
Soon changed with its sharp glance,
Now soon will see.
Now something whispers low,
And seems to speak or show
What I did ask.
And do I dream or hear?
'Tis faint and never clear:
"Life is change—
All change is life—
All action's change.
Matter itself, it cannot change nor changed be—
All things we feel and see do change,
Hence all things live.
If they live not themselves, their PARTS do live,
For THEY do change.
They move—there! there is life.
The log decaying on the ground doth live;

For, dying and decaying so,
Its living molecules do show,
In changes which they undergo,
The life atomic of its composition.
There's but one elemental life;
There is but one life's element.
The many elements we know
Are but the many changes in
The life of this prime element—
But different forms of life—of change.
There is no death, for death
Itself is but the change of life.
All change is progress—
All progress growth—
All growth is life.
Man does not die;
His life does make a change,
Not simply in its habitation,
But gives itself up unto other life.
And time—there's no such thing;
'Tis but the idea of a mind that does not know;
And it itself it does not know,
For where did it begin, and whither will it go?
And space—
There is no space;
For what's beyond this space,
If there be space?
The human mind, imperfect, weak, and small,
Makes for itself this time, this space, this all,
Because it cannot know. It must not fall.
When man shall die he shall but wake
From his long sleep. Then he shall know,
And then to him a thousand years
Shall be but as a day, for time
Shall be no more."

And, as life's problems brighter grow,
Down 'neath the depths of Mystery's stream
The distant light comes nearer, and
I see no more the black depths of
Thy form, O Mystery! so dread!
But brighter grows the light; around
About I go with motion quick
And fast into its depths, and merge
Into itself. And I am light—
I see—at last I know.

ALYN O'DARE.

January, 1900.

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BECAUSE you are going to wish you had the complete volume of this year's Ideas, and we have only a very few copies of the last two numbers left, and will sell those to any, desiring to have their subscription begin with the first number. Our price is only $2.00 a year, and if you rely on the boys to get them you may get left, as we sold out entirely last week and the week before and have left only some which we had returned by special request from the news-stands.

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WEEKLY 5c THE COPY

THE IDEA

A SIGN OF THE TIMES

Vol. III July 10, 1909 No. 6

$2.00 A YEAR

Who is Mayor?
Police Court--Jokes or Justice
Pollock and Politics
Richmond Papers Suppress News
The News Leader's Glaring Mistake
Feel Graft, Breathe Graft
Weak Men in Office
Mock Modesty
Facts or Lies

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UNITED STATES

I love the wild race
With the hounds on the chase,
But I love not the murder of game,
I glory to fight
For honor and right,
But I love neither honors nor fame.

—A. A. Y.

THE IDEA

A Sign of the Times

VOL. III JULY 10, 1909 NO. 6

5 CENTS A COPY $2.00 A YEAR

Published Weekly on Saturday by ADON A. YODER,
904 Capitol Street, Richmond, Va.

WHO IS MAYOR?

Richardson or Police Board

The Board of Police Commissioners called to consider matters brought to light by the Idea. The Mayor can not tell what happened because his subordinate police board says no.

The *Journal* of the 3d, last Saturday, in an article under the caption "Mayor Richardson in Direct Opposition to Methods of Police Board" says:

"I cannot say anything as to the action of the board last night, except that it was called to consider matters relating to the discipline and efficiency of the police force.

"The board passed a resolution that the action of the board should not be made known. This was against my judgment and advice. I believe in the greatest publicity in city affairs, and that the official action of public officers and departments should at all times be open to the public."—Mayor Richardson.

The mayor thus admits that he is bound to keep quiet when

he had a perfect right to say what he pleases as he, and not the board, is the chief executive officer of the city.

Whether he keeps quiet or not concerning this meeting he should give the board to understand their subordinate position and he should direct the police force, as the law requires him to, both in the Constitution, which makes him the chief magistrate of the city, and in the charter and other legislative statutes. He should rise to the dignity of his position, and not be the mere tool of others. As he is responsible to the State for the behavior of the police, and as he must take the blame for any violation of the laws, he should also assume the command the State gives him, and not let a little police board whose prime duties are to "prescribe such uniform and badges for the police as they may deem proper," dictate what he or the police shall or shall not do. The only other kind of authority the law gives them (the Board) is that of appointment and dismissal. The Mayor has shown that THE IDEA has had its weight in pointing out his duty; now, let him act up to his duty, and we shall take pleasure in commending rather than censuring him. If he does not, however, then our plans to compel law enforcement may put him in an extremely awkward position: that of being on trial for "neglect of official duty."

Be a mayor and we are with you. Be a puppet and we are with the law—against you. Let the people show the Mayor that they expect him to be more than a mere figurehead, and we believe he may come out and show what is in him. Unless the public does do this he, since he is surrounded by petty politicians, will not realize his true position and in all probability, will drift on, to the pleasure and profit of the Police Board, and to his own ultimate discomfiture.

We wonder why Uncle Sam will send a large posse of deputies out into the mountains to stop a farmer from running a little 2x4 still and yet permit the revenue laws to be violated under the very shadow of their office in Richmond. Are the Republican and Democratic machines so hand-in-glove that they wink at each other's negligence?

JOKES OR JUSTICE

Secret Trials
Telephone Trials
Wholesale Trials and
Trials by Mail.

Judges are supposed to be dignified and solemn because justice requires solemn thought and quiet deliberation to ward off decisions given in haste or heat or feeling, and therefore the expression "solemn as a judge" has become proverbial.

In Richmond this expression has lost its force and the expression "as ridiculous as a judge" would not only be more expressive but would also be more true to life.

The police court has gotten to be recognized as a place of amusement and visitors to the city make it a point to take in among the places of especial interest, the police court. In the remotest parts of the State and the Nation Justice John Crutchfield is a well known character and his court is the subject of many an interesting story and his peculiar methods of judicial procedure are the common talk of tourists.

Visitors to Richmond inquire of the hotel clerks where to find the "One John" or "Justice John."

In past years Richmond was noted for her two Johns, John Jasper and John Crutchfield, both occupying positions regarded elsewhere as those of dignity and decorum but here regarded as the seats of outlandish humor and laughter provoking pantomine. On one occasion about twelve years ago it was our pleasure to hear the distinguished colored divine on his annual sermon day when his subject was "The sun do move." This was also the occasion for "lifting a collection from the white folks," and it seemed to afford the negro portion of the congregation a peculiar pleasure to see Justice John Crutch-

field, who was occupying a front seat, hand over a half-dollar to the good brother deacon who passed the basket, for it seemed to remind them of the many times when conditions were just the reverse when they were the ones who had so often been required to hand over the cash to the Justice, indeed seldom does it occur that a negro gets free if he is once called into the police court of Richmond.

Not only is the negro the butt of many a joke and the payer of many a speedy sentence given at the expense of impartiality, but unless one has a good strong pull in the Richmond police court he is likely to come away, guilty or not guilty, mad enough to fight a hornets' nest, for it seems to be the rule of this court to regard a man a criminal unless he can prove otherwise and he is given very scant opportunity even then to even tell his side of the case.

Just yesterday we saw a young man treated in a most unkindly manner by the court, given a lecture which even if he had been guilty was utterly undeserved and uncalled for, and then fined without being given an opportunity to answer to the charge preferred against him. As it dawned on the young fellow that he had been punished without a trial and as the guard caught him by the arm and rudely pulled him away he said with suppressed emotion, "I wanted to tell you about it and you would not listen to me." The only answer as he was dragged away was "I can't help that," and the next case was called. We listened diligently to the evidence given,—a few brief words by a policeman—and we heard nothing to convict a man on, even if he had not desired to refute it.

Another case was called. A policeman made a remark in a low tone to the justice,—the justice turning to the prisoner said: "What did you talk back at him for?" "I did not talk —— ——" but his answer was broken by the sharp, "$5.00" from the justice, and the prisoner was led back to the pen. Six little boys were brought forward charged with disorderly conduct on the street July 3rd. Not one of them was given a trial or a chance to say one word. The justice lectured them and fined them one dollar each "and costs" which amounted to more than the fine, the six paying $9.60 costs and $6.00 in fines. We wonder where such costs come in.

Then comes a case of stealing in which the goods stolen were produced and the case was absolutely clear against the boy. The justice made a few kindly remarks to the boy and dismissed the case. And if you wonder why he dismissed it we will simply have to answer that Mr. Pollock appeared as attorney for the boy. He made no speech as is customary for counsel to do, he simply leaned over and made some slight remarks to the judge which could not be heard by those sitting a few feet away, and that seemed to satisfy the court.

Again—Two prisoners are called. Mr. Pollock walks up to the police before their evidence is given and makes a few remarks to them, then turning to the court says, "I represent these two fellows." The courts demeanor changes, he smiles, no more bluster. A policeman offers a few words of evidence to which the justice replies, both in a low voice. A second of silence, then "The case is dismissed" comes from the judge, and everybody smiles as the next case is called. Now we would enquire "Why, if there was no case against the prisoner was it deemed necessary to get Mr. Pollock and pay him a fee to represent the prisoner?" Also, "Why did the police arrest in the first place if no charge worthy of evidence being offered could be made?" We do not hesitate to say it looks rotten to us.

We have been in court on three occasions recently and cases came up with attorneys about twelve times during those three visits. Only three lawyers appeared for all these cases;—one lawyer appearing for one case, another lawyer for another and the third lawyer, Mr. Pollock appearing in *all* the other cases. This is a very *significant* fact.

Secret Trials.—In this court very many cases are called and a note is handed to the justice and the case is decided without any open trial at all. This strikes us as being neither legal nor fair. Secret trials are contrary to American ideas of justice. Besides this, many cases are tried in the office of the justice without once coming to open trial at all.

When men can be fined out of court there must be a great temptation to bribery and other evil. We propose to look into the legal aspects of such proceedings and not simply by publicity but by legal action to put an end to all abuses of justice.

Trial by wholesale.—On a recent occasion in this court the

justice called out before any trial was given, for all those charged with the offense to come forward and pay a fine of $2.50. The accused came forward and lined up and some paid up, though the most were led away to the pen. This was too much trial by wholesale, or rather sentenced by wholesale, without trial, for even a hanger-on of the court, and he got the ear of the justice who called them all out from the pen again and asked them to answer to their names. Some whose names were called did not answer and then it developed that they had been released on paying their fine *before court.*

Trial by Letter and Trial by Telephone.—Frequently in the police court we have seen the judge read a letter and render his decision without further trial, but the climax was reached last Saturday when, according to newspaper reports, Justice John fined a man out at the ball park over the telephone.

Justice John evidently believes in practical jokes as well as in jokes which simply create a laugh.

POLLOCK AND POLITICS

In Council and Court.

Electioneering for Police Commisioner McCarthy.

Not long ago we showed the relation of Mr. Pollock to the council and the police court and police force. It is our purpose in this number to produce more evidence to show the existence of certain relationships between these parts which should not exist.

In the first place let us take a look into the council meeting during the election of a police commissioner. At last week's joint meeting of the council and aldermen there was called an election for a police commissioner. There were three candidates. One recommended by a ward committee, and called the ring candidate, Mr. McCarthy; another, Mr. Disney, and another, Dr. Bryan.

The machine element in the council was of course for Mr. McCarthy. Pollock and Mills and the ring crowd of course stood together but the part that was noticeable to an outsider was that there seemed to be such intense interest and excitement over such a small affair. Mills and Pollock seemed to be so worked up. They were rushing hither and thither, smiling on a member here, upbraiding one there, arguing yonder, all with so much apparent interest that we inquired of bystanders why such an election caused so much stir. "Is there anything in it?" we enquired, for we knew that there was no salary attached to the job. The answer came quick,—"Anything in it, why of course there is. The commissioners appoint the policemen," and it was spoken in such a surprised tone, as if one were exceedingly ignorant who did not know that a police commissioner could make money out of his appointive power. And therefore if it paid a commissioner so well why should it not offer inducements to these councilmen whose influence would succeed in determining who that commissioner should be?

Well, to get back, Mr. Pollock seemed more concerned about the result than any other one and made a speech for the ring candidate, Mr. McCarthy, and when he, McCarthy, was not elected in the first ballot, then the lobbying was renewed in earnest; Pollock hastening about the floor to persuade voters to vote for his man. Some eight or nine ballots were taken and the fight was a hot one. A motion was made to adjourn and Pollock, realizing that this would kill his candidate, as he admitted, of course used his influence to keep from adjourning and went so far as to upbraid two of his hangers-on for voting "aye" and inducing them after their votes were in to change to "no."

Now, to be able to change votes after a vote is an invaluable power, and this is where Pollock's unknown influence comes in, and it is really amusing to see how the little machine men obey his orders. As one would vote not to suit him he would scowl and hasten across the chamber to get him in line. With another he would use his powers of persuasion only. On the last ballot when McCarthy was declared elected, Pollock was the happiest man in the council, he jumped up and smacked

his hands together and said "J——s C——t! That was a close call," and then went about gloating over a victory of greed against the people. A few moments later he said with an oath, "I was scared to death and working like a dog."

Now The Idea wants to know why he was so scared by the possibility of a highminded doctor being elected to the board. By his own talk he was personally exceedingly interested in the success of the ring candidate and these actions and these words here written down show that his influence had a large weight in putting McCarthy into office.

Now let us notice what a police commissioner does. The board of commissioners appoint the police and may, on cause, remove from office. This means that if the commissioner is not the highest class of man he will use his power to keep police from enforcing laws against his friends and this is the charge that citizens daily bring against the police commissioners in our hearing. They say that the police are not able to do their sworn duty because they fear they will loose their jobs. And there is not a policeman in Richmond who does regard his oath. In fact before this matter came up we learned that policemen have claimed that they could not possibly afford to abide by their oaths because of the fear that this board would take away their jobs simply because they had done their duty. This explains why there is not a policeman in the city who dares to enforce the laws which he knows are violated daily because he knows that "he would not be upheld" either by the mayor, who is responsible in law for the acts of the police, or by the commissioners which are now so powerful that the mayor does not even dare to oppose them.

Now, since Mr. Pollock is so powerful in making the personnel of the police commission, who in turn make the police force, you can readily see how Pollock has an influence with the individual policemen and how a prisoner would naturally want to have Pollock represent him because the policemen would not want to offend Pollock by giving convicting evidence against a prisoner whom Pollock was representing. This is why the policeman acts, as we have seen them act in the court in a way that shows that he fears the power of Pollock. They do not, and cannot dare, to take a bold stand when Pollock

is against them. This shows why on a recent Monday morning when there were many cases in court represented by Pollock, there was only one other lawyer who had a case in this police court. And the same thing occurred again to-day, July 5th. Many cases were represented by Pollock and one lone lawyer appeared to defend another prisoner. Pollock has an almost absolute monopoly on the police court practice—and there is a reason for it.

FACTS OR LIES?

Being some remarks concerning a headless little publication which has just made its appearance in Richmond in defence of whiskey and corrupt politics.

If you'll go into the police court most any morning you will find some evil doer caught in the meshes of the law who is so hemmed about by truthful evidence that his only hope is in telling an unusually big one to snow under the prosecution. And he feels so much in need that he prefaces his remarks to the court by saying, "I's gwine tell you de trufe, boss," or "Dis is a fact." And immediately a titter goes around the court room for every one realizes that when a man is so talkative about his telling the truth he is really ready to tell an unusually big lie.

Likewise in a recent wet and dry contest in a neighboring city the saloons imported some large posters, furnished and published by the National Wholesale Liquor Dealers of America, entitled

"FACTS"

Concerning prohibition in other states.

In a day or so the Anti-Saloon League exposed the so-called "facts" as lies of the basest sort, and the few business men who were helping the saloons in their fight immediately

had the posters torn down, because they realized that when a man is boastful about his telling the truth he requires watching.

Some two weeks ago we were informed that an opposition publication would shortly appear to contest the ground taken by The Idea in its fight against evil.

We, of course, were delighted because we knew that we had hold of enough actual data and statistics to not only hold our ground but to confound the enemy, and by nature we enjoy a contest. We must admit, however, that we have been sadly disappointed in both the moral and intellectual character of our rival publication, for surely if the editor, or editress, or editors, or editresses of "Facts" have set out to hold any position, it certainly cannot be as weak as this first number would make it appear. For most any position can find at least some few arguments that will at least appear to be good for at least a little while. But our little contemporary must be seriously embarrassed by the awkwardness and untenability of its position and the difficulty of taking a stand for corruption, and graft, and injustice, and mismanagement of municipal affairs, and all manner of evil. We trust that the editor has some inborn disgust at being known as a defender of wrong and that this is the reason that he or she, or it or they appear or appears so weak in his, or her, or its, or their first number, and that he or she or it or they is, or are, ashamed to have his, or her, or its, or their name or names appear as editor, or editress, or both, of this little publication.

But we did not start out to hurt him, or her, or them over much. We desire to encourage them. At first we were tempted to treat them as the daily papers here are treating us, with silent contempt, but instead we are going to do as we would be done by, and help them by our advice and criticism and advertisement by thus mentioning them in our modest publication. Now seriously, Mr. (or Miss or both) Facts, you can do better than that. With all the money that the whiskey interests you represent have, you surely can do better than this. Can't you find something interesting as the product of your own brain or brains without relying on quoting from The Idea the only thing of real interest in your publication?

Come now, give us something worth while. If you are going to scrap make it lively. You'll get beat so much quicker if you don't put on a bold front.

If you can't handle the proposition we would suggest that you get an editor. You know it is almost impossible to edit a paper without an editor. And then, remember this, that it takes about three times as much brains to defend a weak position as it does a strong one. In other words the editor of THE IDEA having the advantage of being on the side of right, can get along with about one third of the expense of mental energy that must be consumed in attempting to defend a weak position as that so boldly assumed by you.

Again—don't be ashamed of your name.

Feel Graft. Breathe Graft

Richmond compared with San Francisco.

"At first it was little squalid graft—black mailing gamblers and the nether world; one could feel graft, breathe it, do all but see and prove it."

Don't that sound like Richmond to-day. We can all feel graft and breathe graft. We feel it in excessive taxes and no returns for them, in neglected streets and wasted flumes, in high prices for printing and other city bills, in crooked bond issues and awards of contracts to highest bidders, and in a million and one other ways. We breathe it in the daily conversation on the street, in the club and wherever men assemble together. That sentence, however, was written about San Francisco in 1901, before the big grafters out there were even suspected of their crime, which afterwards landed them behind prison bars, but it sounds like it was written about Richmond in the good year 1909. The article in McClure's Magazine telling of the graft prosecution in San Francisco says further: "The town knew everything was for sale; the town cynically smiled; Ruef they said was a smart fellow. *The public*

prints were silent." Such is the case to-day in Richmond. People know "that everything is for sale," but "they cynically smile," and the newspapers "are silent"—ah, there's the great trouble in Richmond. There is not a newspaper here that is willing to publish what it knows of the graft here.

While the Richmond papers do what is infinitely more valuable to the liquor dealers, in that they practically sell their editorial columns to the whiskey interests.

"Now the large graft began; the saloons sold 'municipal' whiskey; Chinatown (the tenderloin) paid heavy tribute to the police; the administration profited from the earnings of the women of the dives." Don't that sound again like Richmond. Then the political boss Ruef was charged with bribery by a little paper then being printed in San Francisco. He afterwards confessed and the mayor "Schmitz was tried and condemned to prison for it. Notwithstanding the abundance of proof of this clear case of official extortion, at that time *no other newspaper published a word* concerning the occurrence." And this is the point we want to make—that it matters not how much graft is going on in Richmond you cannot expect the daily papers to expose it. It has been the history of most cities that the average newspaper has not got nerve enough to do anything at all towards exposing those high up in the political life of the community. If the *Times-Dispatch* dared to; if the *News Leader* dared to; if the *Journal* dared to, they have enough information at their command to put the grafters in Richmond out entirely, but no, they answer, "That would hurt the Democratic party in Virginia," as one of them, the *Times-Dispatch*, put it on one occasion when they were requested to publish some things which the people ought to have known. These papers care more for machine politics than they do for the welfare of the people.

But to return to the San Francisco affair, the fearless little paper, "The Bulletin," got hold of Heney, the great graft prosecutor and in a speech he said, "I'll come back here and put Abe Ruef in prison."

The grafter got worse and Heney came and a wealthy San Francisco man put up $100,000 to fight the grafters, and

many of the big fish were sentenced and others went into exile, and others are being tried to-day, and the end is not yet.

Richmond may sit back and keep quiet for a while, but when THE IDEA gets the law on the big politician and grafters in Richmond the people will certainly come forward and believe that there is indeed something wrong here.

We have studied municipal government in other places and we are frank to confess that though we have been up against mismanagement, and petty graft and extravagance in the case of city funds Richmond is in the grasp of a ring more powerful than any we have yet seen. Here the grafter has gotten into almost every department of our city life and his tremendous machine has brought the citizens so slavishly low that they even fear to discuss on the street their own city affairs for fear of its effect on their business or their social popularity. And the people seem to think that they can't stop it.

News Leader's Glaring Mistake

Says Franklin "Goes Wet" Really Went "Dry"

More Than Two to One.

But News Leader Does not Correct its Error.

The *News Leader,* on July 2d, had the following article:
SOUTHAMPTON COUNTY DISTRICT GOES "WET."

Franklin, July 2.—A special election was held in this magisterial district Wednesday to determine whether the dispensary now in operation at this place should be abolished or not.

The balloting was heavy, and resulted in 79 votes in favor of the dispensary and 200 against it. The temperance people are jubilant but quiet in their sweeping victory.

As a result of the election the dispensary will close Oct. 1st and thereafter this town and district will be dry.

Notice the fact that though the headlines said "wet" yet really the vote putting whiskey out of Franklin was more than two to one, or 200 to 79, in favor of the "Drys" and yet we have searched diligently for a correction of this gross misstatement and have not yet been able to discover it.

Did the *News Leader* because it wants to make the people believe that the "prohibition wave has been checked" deliberately make this error. If not, why did it not the next day make the correction? Next! *News Leader.*

STYLE OR SUBSTANCE.

Did you ever notice that The Idea does not attempt any high-sounding terminology or ornate and beautiful phrases.

Time was when, in writing for others we put in the frills and curls and even essayed the field of metre and verse, and tried to adorn our expression with carefully wrought figures of speech. Now, however, we "blurt it out like a school-boy," often without ever looking it over before sending it to press. And our reason is this. Time is a consideration now and our object is simply to start you to thinking, and the minor matter of pleasing the ear does not concern us, largely because we don't care whether you are pleased or not, in fact we don't care whether we please ourselves or not, as far as style is concerned. And then we find that in attempting to polish up an article it is so easy to hurt the thought and give a shade of meaning not desired. So we just fire away, giving our thoughts for what they are worth, fresh and hot from the think-tank, forgetting we ever burnt the midnight oil in diving into Anglo-Saxon or Hellenic literature, or worrying over Latin or Greek or Hebrew derivations, or chasing after college distinctions and degrees.

Time's too short and life's too uncertain to think of such things in the rush of modern days, especially when there's no boss to jerk you up and fire you for not putting on the polish.

But don't you ever be fooled into thinking that because we are careless of phraseing and frills that this little affair is careless of its facts.

In fact about that we are often too careful because how-

ever many rascals may be guilty we don't want to be tricked into hurting an innocent one.

When public malefaction comes to our attention we hate to believe it, and so we verify carefully by close inquiry and study, most often going into the very minutest details, and diligently searching for any mitigating circumstances, for we know the frailties of humanity and are inclined toward forgiveness for all human errors, but when once we are satisfied that a malicious thief has been robbing the people we are absolutely careless and relentless in pursuit of the offender, and our wording and methods may be radical in the extreme. When there's a radical wrong, there's need for a radical remedy.

The Idea is conservative in its attitude towards all mankind, but is rank and radical in fighting evil wherever found.

MOCK MODESTY.

PERSONAL.

May we have your attention for just a moment concerning the methods of The Idea. Word comes to us that some of our readers think we overstep the mark in our boldness in exposing the redlight evil, and perhaps they think, not being well acquainted with the Editor, that we are "of the baser sort," or have not proper regard for the higher sensibilities of our cultured and refined reading public. We desire to state that no one has higher ideals and we modestly believe that very few men are more careful in the language of their daily conversation than we, and it hurts us to think that we may hurt the usefulness of our little paper by appearing to be regardless of the feelings of others. We have not the slightest doubt that the future will disclose us in a better light and that as a result the good we hope to accomplish will be increased. Meanwhile, we want you to know that nothing but an intense hatred of vice and evil urges us to disclose it in such horrible colors.

We show you the picture not that you may enjoy the picture, but that you may so loathe the evil that you will arouse in your righteousness and banish it from our fair city. We

print in this paper things which we regret the need for exceedingly, but, since the need exists, we are determined to do our duty, and even though it should not meet with the approval of all, we trust that in the long run it will be seen to be the right course.

We have small sympathy for that mock modesty which is so prudish as to fail to see the evil or to hear about it, but which, by its ignorance, permits the damnation of those who have a right to expect from them sufficient knowledge to protect and guide their young feet to better ways. We have no sympathy for the parent who will permit his child to be tempted by vice which he is too goody-goody to sufficiently examine into to be able to eradicate.

GRAFT IN CITY GOVERNMENT—PREMIUM ON PECULATION—HONEST OFFICIALS IMPOSSIBLE.

The wise plans of Penn did not preclude in his city, misgovernment as notorious as in New York. St. Louis, San Francisco have both jailed high officials. Disclosures have caused both the Mayor of Louisville and the Chief of Police of Newark, N. J., to blow out their brains. Even Puritan Boston's Finance Committee has uncovered graft so insidious as to cast doubt on the technique of Tammany Hall.—Robert Sloss, in *Van Norden's Magazine.*

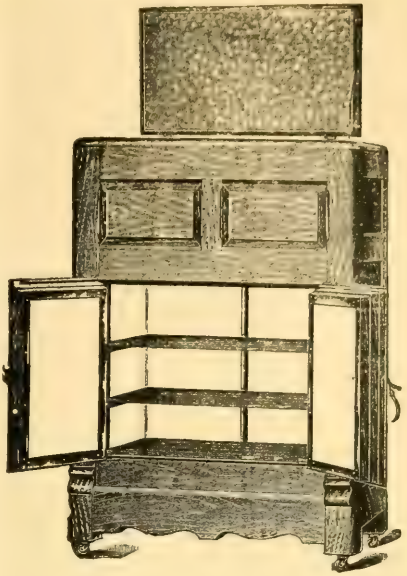
We would add: "Let the grafter beware in Richmond!" He further states: "The existing organization of every department of the city government, not only put a premium on peculation, but made it impossible for even an honest official to render efficient public service." No, Sloss was not talking about Richmond, but it is absolutely true here. The best of officials, on account of ring methods, cannot render in Richmond efficient service. If they start out to serve the people they find their official head in danger of decapitation. So, as a rule, they drift along in the ruts, and let city affairs look after themselves.

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Since handing most of our copy to the printer, our ADVERTISING MAN, just put on the work, has handed us the few ads herein just in time to get in this number, and promises more for next week. Look into this proposition before he calls. Our rates are low.

Our Subscription Price is $2.00 a Year

THE IDEA

Newsboys!

10 PRIZES

To the Boy selling the largest number of copies of *The Idea* for the month of July we will give a *Handsome Watch*, and to the next nine we will give suitable prizes, to be announced later. Begin now by getting people to promise to take *The Idea* from you REGULARLY

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GET IDEAS *at*
904 Capitol Street
next door to Park
Hotel, Corner 9th
and Broad Streets

AND

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MODEL NEWS CO., 519 W. Broad St.
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WEEKLY 5c THE COPY

THE IDEA

A SIGN OF THE TIMES

Vol. III July 17, 1909 No. 7

$2.00 A YEAR

The Police and Justice John
Why Police Don't Act
Mr. Pollock in Police Court
How Bums Rule Richmond
The $7,500.00 Blunder
The Times-Dispatch Unfair
Praise For The Police
Gov. Johnson on Law-Enforcement
The Mayor's Position

FOR SALE AT ALL NEWS STANDS

BEING SOME SERMONETTES PUBLISHED WEEKLY FOR THE COMMON GOOD AT RICHMOND, VIRGINIA, BY ADON A. YODER, Editor and Publisher, 904 Capitol St., Richmond, Va.

For Slightly Used Furniture

The Mayo Furniture Co.

1402 East Main Street,

which opened its doors June 1st, last, has sold more Furniture than any TWO houses in Richmond. In fine and medium grades they are the lowest priced house in the

UNITED STATES

Be a man among men,
Not a humbug among humbugs.
—*Lowell.*

Not failure, but low aim, is crime.
—*Lowell.*

The bravest are the tenderest,
The loving are the daring.
—*Bayard Taylor.*

The hearts that dare are quick to feel,
The hands that wound are soft to heal.
—*Bayard Taylor.*

THE IDEA

A Sign of the Times

VOL. III JULY 17, 1909 No. 7

5 CENTS A COPY $2.00 A YEAR

Published Weekly on Saturday by ADON A. YODER,
904 Capitol Street, Richmond, Va.

MR. POLLOCK

City Official Fighting the City

The laws keep councilmen from taking contracts with the city. It is legally a crime.

It is a moral crime, if not a legal one, for a city official sworn to uphold the law to take cases, in our courts, which require him to side against the city and the laws of the city.

It is a fact, known to many and often wondered at, that Mr. G. K. Pollock is nearly always the counsel for violators of the whiskey and cocaine and gambling laws, taking cases against the city, although he is a councilman and, as such, an employe who should always defend the city and never appear against the city. Do you think a big railroad or other private corporation would permit one of its directors to take money to represent one bringing suit against the company. No, and no director would dare to attempt it. The case is similar. An employe of the city, Mr. Pollock, represents those who have committed crime against the city.

We do not hesitate to say that Pollock is guilty in morals

of a crime against his city and in a martial court would be called a traitor for giving aid to an enemy.

Can you conceive of a high-minded man taking such a stand?

"You cannot serve two masters."

What is best to-day cannot fail to bring the best results to-morrow.—*Hubbard.*

HOW BUMS RULE IN RICHMOND

Crooked Politics and Whiskey

500 Gamblers and Degenerates Qualify for Election

The citizens often wonder how weak men are elected while the good men are supposed to rule the city by voting for clean men. If you approach almost any gathering of men prior to an election you can count on a majority of them voting conscientiously and standing for candidates of recognized worth but in each crowd you will find those who will say "He's a good man but he wont be elected because the ring is aganist him." And yet no one seems to know how this ring wields its power in the very face of such public sentiment.

Now the answer is to be found in two facts. In the first place if you should ask the men in the group we have just left how many of them have a vote you will be surprised to find that perhaps not half of them are properly registered or have paid their taxes in time to qualify for election day.

In the second place, if you will go to the office of the Commissioner of Revenue you will find that his books show that between 500 and 600 beings, we almost said men—who have neither property nor reputation nor character, have paid in a lump sum to the State their poll taxes for the last three years

and to the question of "Value of personal property," have answered "none." Now note that these men have not sufficiently fixed homes to have been properly taxed by the officers and that they voluntarily (?) have come forward at the last minute this last winter and paid up for three years' time just in time to qualify for the summer elections. Of course this means, as any one could see to look at these men, that they were bums, gamblers, thieves, pimps, toughs, and the very scum of society, the hangers-on of the bar room and low dives. Now it was to the interests of somebody to see that these men had the money and properly qualified to vote. We understand it was done by the whiskey men to forestall a defeat at the polls in the event of a contest this year. At any event we all know the low element that did it and we know that they would not vote either dry or for clean men for office.

We cite this to show what a state of affairs exists in our fair city and to show how the whiskey men keep their hand on the political situation, not only when a wet or dry election is coming off, but in voting into office and councils men who will look out for their interests. One of the greatest reasons for our opposing the whiskey traffic is because of its corrupting influence on politics.

Nearly all bad men in both council and city affairs are put there by the whiskey vote and without their influence Richmond would be a city without its corrupt ring. Without whiskey the power of Clyde Saunders and Gilbert Pollock would be broken and the other slick politicians like Mills and Manning and their kind would loose out for lack of votes.

FROM "IN SCHOOL DAYS."—BY J. G. WHITTIER

(In which "we see the little maiden lingering to apologize for having 'trapped' a boy in the spelling class.")

"I'm sorry that I spelled the word,
I hate to go above you,
'Because,' the brown eyes lower fell,
'Because, you see, I love you.' "

McCARTHY A PUBLIC CALAMITY.

There is rejoicing in the ranks of the police board and ring politics over the election of McCarthy to that body. They evidently know how he will vote. Prominent Richmonders have told us that they regarded the election of McCarthy as a public calamity.

Unrest and ruin wrought through overtaxed nerves, come largely from owning too many things.—*Hubbard.*

The Police and Justice John

Why the Police Don't Act

Ridiculed by the Court. Roasted Openly for Doing Their Duty.

Justice John Calls Them Down.

Every now and then a new policeman realizing his duty as set forth in his oath, attempts to enforce the law and he goes ahead as he has sworn to do and arrests for law violation and brings his prisoner into court. Then the grilling commences. Justice John begins his ridicule and makes the young officer feel like a fool right there in open court. On a recent occasion we were in this police court when a young officer appeared with his prisoner. The justice proceeded to lambast the young man and crack jokes at his expense until the fellow was ashamed to stand before him. And when we enquired the cause we were told that the officer had the audacity to arrest

some one who was "protected" in some way and the officer had not been *instructed* to make the arrest.

You see certain kinds of offenses against the law may be committed with impunity by certain people who have an influence with the court, most likely through the police board.

We can name four violations of the law which are daily committed under the very noses of the policemen and with the sanction of the courts. The offenders have an understanding that they will not be touched, and woe be to the poor policemen who is so careless of his job as to dare to have them arrested.

Citizens have recently called our attention to four separate instances where the attention of the police has been called to gross and flagrant violations of the law and the police refused to act because, as they said, they could not afford to offend the ring which practically was the law of the city.

Justice John practically tells the police as the French king told the people: "I am the law," let the statutes go to grass.

Writers seldom write the things they think. They simply write the things they think other folks think they think.—*Hubbard.*

CONCERNING THE BOND ISSUE—THE $7,500.00 BLUNDER.

The man who says he makes no mistakes is a liar. The man who makes none is dead. The livest president America has had, and perhaps the greatest and most democratic, Mr. Roosevelt, was not so near dead as to keep him from making mistakes.

The good that Mr. McKinley might have accomplished was largely destroyed by his extreme caution and fear of making mistakes, his ultra-conservatism.

The Idea is not ultra conservative and will not refuse to attempt any accomplishment simply through fear that it might make mistakes. We will use the utmost care to keep from falling into error, but since to err is human—and we would not pose as super-human—we will sometimes err, and yet when we do make an error, we shall count it a privilege to correct that

error. If our writing conveys the wrong impression we will do our utmost to correct it.

Since writing the article in our number of July 3rd on the bond issue, we learn that some of the men of that committee who are above reproach feel that we have gone too far in censuring the committee as a whole. We desire to state that it was not our purpose to condemn the good men on that committee. As a committee we would censure them for their action and yet we would not mean to say that the committee is composed entirely of rascals.

We will say this, that though that committee has evidently by its unwise action cost the city $7,500.00, we believe, and even know, that there are good men on that committee who thought that they were doing the best thing for the city.

This big fact remains however—that they sold the bonds to the first bidder without waiting and attempting to place them at a higher figure. And the little town of Petersburg even is now boasting that for their bond issue recently ordered they are having many inquiries from investors, showing that the people are ready to bid if they are ever given a chance.

The council should be censured for making such an exceedingly large and utterly uncalled for issue at this time and the committee should be reprimanded by the people for not making a better sale.

If The Idea said anything to justify the impression that we regarded all the finance committee as rascals we desire to correct it. We do, however, continue to declare that a tremendous blunder was made by the committee which will entail a loss on the citizens of $7,500.00, which was absolutely unnecessary and we continue to believe that the good men on that committee would not have been led to make such an error if it had not been to the financial interests of somebody to make it appear to them that it was the right thing to do. Petersburg and Lynchburg are about to sell bonds in large issues. When these sales have been consummated we will show how these towns beat Richmond on the deal.

Those who sow dunce seed, vice seed, laziness seed, usually get a crop.—*Emerson.*

HOW CITIES ARE ROBBED AND THE REMEDY—GOVERNMENT BY COMMISSION.

We understand that some think that we are trying to make the people believe that all Richmond officials and coucilmen are grafters.

There are many people who are willing to believe that all men in political positions are corrupt. We do not agree with them. We could name many city officials who are not only above reproach but who are moreover of the highest order of rectitude and honesty. We will not attempt to name the large number of such men in Richmond's city hall. We will simply take as an example of that class, Mr. Pace, the efficient and honorable treasurer.

Though we censure our system of city government and condemn it as rotten to the core and though Mr. Pace is part of that system, we still would not condemn Mr. Pace, but we would, on the other hand, uphold him and praise him as we would many other city officials. We point out the evils of the present system and of certain individuals of the present system in order to arouse people to a study of their government so that they may be able to change it for a more sane and business-like government in the shape of government by commission.

But to get back—you ask—where is the evil in the council committees? Let's answer by an illustration which has been used on public occasions before. A big concern wants to get accepted a certain bid. The representative finds that there is a certain lawyer very influential with the politicians. He knows that if he can get that lawyer his bid will be accepted. He offers the lawyer a fee of $100 in cash and says to him he has $500 more if his bid is accepted. The lawyer proceeds to work. He is gifted and influential. He sees the men of the committee in charge of the awards and persuades them that though his client's bid is larger still it would save them more than the difference to let the contract at the higher bid. His appeal carries and the city pays the bill and throws away $10,000 of money, although every member of that committee may be above reproach. All that can be said is that the citizens had the bill to pay and the blame can not be placed.

This is just the way all politicians know grafting is often done. When a committeeman cannot be found who can be bought an outsider can. Now most of the council committees in Richmond have some weaklings on them, or worse, grafters on them, and through this weakling or grafter the outside grafter works and in this way graft has gone on and is going on in Richmond.

The councilmen admit they have not time to post themselves and so they have to take the word of others and these others are often the bought men.

And the remedy is simply this. Government by a committee of five experts who are paid to know and act accordingly.

Such a committee or commission will know and feel their responsibility and the city will be saved hundreds of thousands of dollars every year just as the seventy or eighty cities are doing which have adopted this form. Richmond still blunders along with an ancient body of fifty-six incompetent, irresponsible, jolly good fellows spending hours and hours of their valuable time in senseless debates over things which they admit, when the voting time comes, they know nothing about and have to take somebody else's judgment on.

The Idea is showing up these outlandish mistakes and blunders in order to get government by commission, the only common sense business-like plan ever adopted. Our council, however, don't like to let us have it because they will lose their influential positions which sometimes means their positions of graft.

Graft in Granting Whiskey License
Duties of the Police Board
Protection of Big Gamblers
Who the Editor is

The above are among the topics to be discussed in our next issue. Subscribe now. $2.00 a year.

"THE NORTH AMERICAN"

Boycotted by the Whiskey Interests

Its Results—A Big Lesson for Other Papers.

The Philadelphia North American, in an editorial of June 19th, tells an interesting story of the way a boycott was enforced against them by the distillers and brewers.

That editorial says: "* * * But when they whipped into line, not only the saloon men, but many hotel men, and warned every store they traded with—sent to us warnings that even dealers in toothpicks and pickles and rubber bands had been warned by dire consequences if they continued to advertise in the *North American*—when deputations sought to deprive us of all department store advertising and sent boycotting committees to pretty much all Philadelphia merchants from whom the liquor men buy goods, it was, or we suppose it should have been, an exceedingly awesome warning. * * *

"But a surprise awaited us. * * * * It was a reflex result of the boycott that came with such surprising swiftness that we had no fair chance to test our faith. * * * We speak our experience frankly *that opposition aroused honestly by a newspaper strong enough to stand alone and command the people's trust will create more support than it can take away.*

"It has been an exceedingly interesting experience. * * * The losses came but they came at the start, and we met them calmly. * * * Nowadays, and every day, the columns of this newspaper show that there has been gain, not loss."

All this boycott was made by the saloon men just because *The North American* stood for a policy of local option, and yet the whiskey people claim to believe in "personal liberty" and the next breath will attempt not only to destroy the personal liberty but the very life of a paper whom they have not

money enough to buy out. This ought to show to the people of Richmond why the *Times-Dispatch* and the *News Leader* can't afford, or think they can't afford to give the other side a fair show.

The Philadelphia North American tells also of

THE BOYCOTT OF THE TIMES DEMOCRAT OF New Orleans.

"Because its Policy Compelled it to Antagonize Abuses of the Liquor Trade."

"A News Paper with a Conscience"

U. S. Court Calls the Gamblers and Whiskey Men—"A Quasi-Criminal Portion of the Population."

The American says:

"We claim admiring fellowship with it *because it has proved itself to be a newspaper with a policy and a conscience.*

A campaign was carried on by gamblers and their liquor allies to intimidate the *Times-Democrat.* It led to a law suit, and Judge Saunders of the U. S. District Court, in delivering the decision against the boycotters said in part: 'We cannot permit a quasi-criminal portion of the population to censor and dictate what the newspapers shall be permitted to say in their discussion of public questions. It was charged that a conspiracy was formed for the purpose of breaking up and destroying the business of one of the principal newspapers of the South, the *Times-Democrat* of New Orleans. This paper has

taken a firm stand against the liquor and racing element of the State and as a result has aroused the ire of that portion of the population. They are said to have *approached advertisers of the paper with a request to withhold the advertising matter until the paper changed its policy.* Said Judge Saunders: 'I cannot imagine a greater crime than this as the criminals are trying to destroy the free discussion of questions of interest to the welfare of the city.'

"It is a splendid decision," says the *North American,* "and we hope for the further enforcement of that and like rulings. For they would serve to unfetter the countless newspapers which would like to stand for the right if they could afford it."

We wonder if the *News Leader* and the *Times-Dispatch* belong to those "newspapers which would like to stand for the right if they could afford it."

He wields the deadliest blade of all, who lightest holds his life.—*Timrod.*

NEWS SUPPRESSED

What the Daily Papers Did and Didn't, When Petersburg Voted Wet and Radford Voted Dry.

Radford voted dry Thursday of last week, June 24th, and yet those who get the *Times-Dispatch* only don't know it yet, for Friday's paper did not say a word about it though they received a dispatch telling the whole story. Radford went dry about two to one and there was great interest throughout the State in the election and we have looked through the paper three times for some reference to it, either editorially or as a news item, and yet it can not be discovered. It may possibly be there as we did not use a microscope, but we have asked friends if they had read it and they knew nothing about it,

and they were surprised that here a week after they did not know that such an important thing had happened in the State. We have also searched diligently through Saturday's paper, all to the same result. Not there. We will offer the assertion that if Radford had gone wet the news would not have been suppressed. Oh! no. When Petersburg went wet the daily papers here like a drowning man jumping at a straw, sung out with one accord that the "Tide had Turned," and that the great prohibition wave had been checked but they refused to comment on the return of the big tidal wave when Radford voted dry.

When a far-off town in Ohio went wet they not only gave it great prominence as a news item but made it the subject of long editorials and whooped and howled much over the big victory of evil over right, but when a town in their own State votes dry "all is quiet along the James."

The *Leader* and the *Journal* were not much better. They simply gave a very obscure inner page notice of it which few people saw and we have as yet not noticed any editorial comment from any of the Richmond papers.

No, they are absolutely unfair. They are using their large influence as disseminators of news to suppress that news which to them is not agreeable. This is why The Idea is receiving so many communications thanking us for exposing them and berating these Richmond daily papers for not giving them a square deal. When a yellow man murders a girl in a far-off city then some yellow journals insult our eyes and ears for days with long columns of the yellowest kind of outlandish rot, tending to lower the morals of Richmond, and yet suppress that which will accomplish much good and is an item of clean and important interest.

Can we expect a community to grow in civic virtue if its press is grown so commercial and debased as to cater to the low and vile and indecent and horrible in human nature.

And these same yellow dailys mold the very thought and action of Richmond.

No circumstances can repair a defect in character.—*Ralph Waldo Emerson.*

FOUND AT LAST.

Several days after writing the above a friend of ours has discovered for us the little Radford announcement in the *Times-Dispatch* of June 25th. We print it below to show what it looked like. As you will see it was in lines like an ad. and with other ads., and it was the only news item we could find in that paper, with the single exception of another little half-inch item at the bottom of a page, which was set up like an ad. The average reader does not read the ads and therefore the average reader did not see this item. We would ask the *Times-Dispatch* why they did not treat this as other news matter and give it a place where one would expect to find news items. Is it because the whiskey people have said something to them about boycotting, People of Richmond have a right to a square deal.

"DRYS" WIN EASY VICTORY IN ELECTION AT RADFORD.

Radford, Va., June 24.—The "drys" won by a majority of 104 votes in a local option election here to-day. The "dry" majority two years ago was 153. The total vote cast to-day was 383, of which the "wets" cast 139 and the "drys" 243. The total vote two years ago was 398, of which the "drys" had 275 and the "wets" 123.

LATER.—July 1st. The *Times-Dispatch* for to-day has a slight mention of the victory of the drys in Franklin. The dispensary was put out by a vote according to their paper of nearly three to one—210 to 79.

The point of interest, however, is that the paper put this up as an ad. just as they did the Radford notice. We found it because after the Radford notice we knew how to expect this in an unexpected place.

The *Times-Dispatch* gave the Franklin dry election two and a half inches and the Radford dry election one and a half inches, both in very obscure places, and yet gave long outlandish prominence to the wet victory in Peterstown, on the very first page and besides editorially.

Let us have fair play. Each one of the Richmond papers gave separately many times the prominence to the lonesome

wet victory at Petersburg that they all together gave to the two dry victories in Radford and Franklin.

GOVERNOR JOHNSON ON LAW ENFORCEMENT

Jackson, Michigan, July 1st. Governor Johnson of Minnesota, delivering an address here last night said:

"I view with contempt the man who swears to enforce a law and then cast it aside with the excuse that it is not backed by public opinion. There is not a law on the statute books that cannot be enforced."

Governor Johnson's topic was "The Majesty of the Law." He said that the majority of the law-makers are honest men, but that there is too much lack of respect for the law.

We reprint this press report to show the mayor how others regard an oath of office.

THE MAYOR'S POSITION

In Control of a Thing Which He Does Not Know to Exist

In pursuance of our policy of standing for law enforcement we would call attention of the mayor to his peculiar position.

The mayor seems to defend his failure to enfoce the law on the ground that, as he says, he "could not on oath, swear that the law was being violated" and in reference to the red light evil, he said "I could not take oath that I know of my own knowledge that these places were bawdy houses," and then a few

minutes later he said—"I think this is the only way to deal with this evil. We have these places under control and that is better than making them scatter all over the city where they can not be controlled."

How does that strike you? He can't swear that these places exist although he says they are under his control. He can swear on oath to enforce the law, yet it don't make any difference if he don't enforce it.

Now as a matter of fact the only control that is had over these places is one of license; these places are permitted to exist, provided they don't do certain things. In other words they may violate all the State law they want to provided they do not violate certain little regulations of the police board. The State law is a small matter compared with these rules issued from the office of the police board dominated largely by such men as Chris. Manning, who was indicted by the grand jury a few years ago for misdemeanor. Now the law makes the mayor, ex-officio president of this board and also gives him power to expell from office any member of this board and it holds him, as head of this board and as head of the city government, responsible for the acts of this board.

And yet corrupt politicians so control this board and the police and the mayor himself that he can not even attempt to enforce the law which he has sworn to enforce and to defend himself he has to say I can't swear that they exist but "we have them under control."

The trouble is a deep one. The citizens have permitted such corrupt men to dominate the city that they make it necessary for the mayor to defend them at the expense of breaking his oath of office and even putting himself in the awkward position of "controlling a thing which he does not know to exist." Not only does the police department which is under direct control of the mayor know of the existence of these places but the chief of police keeps a list of the names of the occupants of these houses so that they can keep track of them and keep control of them, and we are even informed, though we are not yet able to verify it, that the police actually keep the pictures of these women so that they may keep tab on them.

BUT DO THEY CONTROL THEM?

Praise for the police. We know of the existence of houses of ill fame which are far removed from this Mayo street section, and they are permitted to exist, although the property owners and the people who use these streets object.

The police have been solicited to break up these places for the public good but have refused to act because they were restrained from so doing by those over them. We repeat it, police can not enforce the law because the board restrains them and they do not want to lose their positions. Neither do they want to be lectured and laughed at in the police court because their action does not meet the approval of the police justice.

If you or I agreed to do certain things for an employer and then he put over us a minor official with power to discharge us and this minor official told us to do something which was contrary to our agreement with the employer what do you think you or I would do? The average you or I would feel like certainly keeping our job and so we'd very likely obey the one in immediate charge.

So it is with the police; to keep their positions they feel they must obey the board and the justice, the law to the contrary, notwithstanding, and this is why the laws in Richmond are not enforced. The policemen are not to be blamed. They have the littles one to feed. The board is to blame, and that could be remedied if Mayor Richardson would do his duty.

Let the mayor do his duty or else the people will have a right to think that the ring permitted his election because they knew they could handle him.

Come out and show your colors, Mr. Richardson. Whom will you serve, the people or the board.

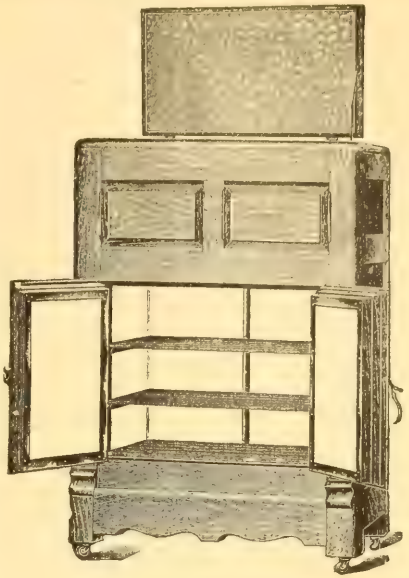
Now we would not have the good people believe that we place Mr. Richardson on the same moral plane as that of the board, and we would not blame him but for the fact that the laws of the State hold him and him alone as the responsible head of the executive department of the city and as far as the law is concerned, if these others under him are wrong the law holds him responsible for the acts of the whole department, and gives him unlimited power over all under him.

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1418-1420 E. Main St., Richmond, Va.

Take it for granted that truths will harmonize; and as for the falsities and mistakes, they will speedily die of themselves

—*Emerson*



Newsboys!

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To the Boy selling the largest number of copies of *The Idea* for the month of July we will give a *Handsome Watch*, and to the next nine we will give suitable prizes, to be announced later. Begin now by getting people to promise to take *The Idea* from you REGULARLY

The Very Idea!

...BOYS...

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Jefferson Pressing Club, 22d and Clay Sts.
MODEL NEWS CO., 519 W. Broad St.
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WEEKLY 5c THE COPY

THE IDEA

A SIGN OF THE TIMES

Vol. III July 24, 1909 No. 8

$2.00 A YEAR

Andy Griffith, Policy King

Saunders and Leaman
Boss and Lieutenant

Buying Votes
In Manchester and Richmond

Graft in Granting Licenses

Who the Editor Is

Servants or Masters

FOR SALE AT ALL NEWS STANDS

BEING SOME SERMONETTES PUBLISHED WEEKLY FOR THE COMMON GOOD AT RICHMOND, VIRGINIA, BY ADON A. YODER, Editor and Publisher, 904 Capitol St., Richmond, Va.

For Slightly Used Furniture

The Mayo Furniture Co.

1402 East Main Street,

which opened its doors June 1st, last, has sold more Furniture than any TWO houses in Richmond. In fine and medium grades they are the lowest priced house in the

UNITED STATES

A. H. Ewing

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The Editor has known Mr. Ewing personally for the last twenty years, and he takes pleasure in stating that his reputation for first-class work and straight forward, satisfactory dealing is unexcelled.

THE IDEA

A Sign of the Times

VOL. III JULY 24, 1909 No. 8

5 CENTS A COPY $2.00 A YEAR

Published Weekly on Saturday by ADON A. YODER,
904 Capitol Street, Richmond, Va.

SAUNDERS AND LEAMAN

Boss and Lieutenant

The *Times-Dispatch* last week published a long list of the candidates for membership on the city Democratic committee, and merely mentioned the fact that there had developed opposition to two members, Saunders and Leaman. There is hardly a man in Richmond who does not believe that if the papers here would fight for clean government they could easily put out of office such men as Clyde Saunders, political boss, and "Dutch" Leaman, his lieutenant, than whom Richmond has never been cursed with men more dangerous to the cause of purity and civic righteousness, yet the papers will not say one word to help put such men out of their positions of power and political corruption. It is a shame on the fair name of the city that it cannot enlist the press in any move to unseat such men with such large powers of corrupting elections, and when the decent people in Clay Ward want to rid their ward of the evil influence of Clyde, or Slide, Saunders, they have to make the fight in the very face of the silent attitude of as-

sistance which the daily papers lend to the elements of corruption.

The powers of darkness do not wish to be fought for openly. They do not want any public fight in their behalf. They rely on darkness and if they were paying for it they would not ask for any better aid than the papers are giving them by their policy of silence.

When the good Democrats of Madison ward would throw off Dutch Leaman and to this extent purify the political atmosphere of that ward they have not a single daily paper to help them by its publicity.

Shame on the daily press of Richmond, which refuses to use the talents given it.

What a pity that the ancient Democracy of the capitol of the State should have to bow down to men like Saunders and Leaman before exercising their rights of American citizenship. And Leaman is the same Leaman, who, at the time of the Bell Co. scandal a few years ago, admitted that he accepted $900 of corruption money from the Bell Co. to help influence voters in granting that company certain valuable franchises.

BUYING VOTES IN MANCHESTER AND RICHMOND

As we go to press the papers report that the Manchester grand jury will make an investigation of the charge that has frequently been made that several of the liquor dealers of Manchester combined and out of their own pockets paid a number of the voters' poll taxes last spring. It is stated "that the names of the men who handled the money are known and that they will be called as witnesses."

The *Times-Dispatch* article adds that the liquor dealers make the claim "that were any taxes paid for voters by other parties it was done by those interested one way or the other in the consolidation question and that the liquor people had nothing to do with it."

My! what a flimsy excuse, especially when every one knows that it is a common practice among the whiskey people to use money to influence elections in this way. The papers published here in Richmond that Richmond whiskey men sent large sums of money to Bristol to be used in getting votes there in the recent election.

We showed in The Idea last week that thousands of dollars were spent last spring by the Richmond whiskey men in paying taxes on the Richmond side of the river and since we printed that the names of two men have been handed us who gave up their other work and spent all their time for days in paying taxes for those who were sent to them by the bar people and that many thousands of dollars went through the hands of these two men alone for this unlawful purpose.

Think of it! Not simply do hundreds of bums vote now who could not vote before, but many hundreds more who might not be classed so low because they do have some personal property, were qualified to vote by the money of whiskey men and that these fellows hold the balance of power in any normal fight and thus practically rule Richmond, not only in wet and dry elections, but in all elections. This one fact is sufficient explanation of the big question so often asked, "why can't clean men be elected to office in Richmond?"

If "Slide" Saunders and "Dutch" Leaman are elected on August 5th, you ought to know why.

A SAD PREDICAMENT

In looking into political conditions here we have run up on many reports as to rotttenness and graft and they have been so numerous that we have been very slow to believe them and then after investigation we have been astounded that such conditions could have existed so long without the daily papers doing something to break them up. The people have a right to expect the daily papers to say something and certainly after the light has been turned on, and yet the papers are used as a cloak for

crime by keeping silent. And let us say right here that we have been offered money to stop exposing certain evils here in Richmond and we know that we could make money by catering to the criminal element for they will pay handsomely for protection from publicity and we often wonder when we see the attitude of suppression of news which the papers assume whether they have been shown that it will pay them better to keep quiet than to expose wrong-doing.

Just think of it for a moment—we have unearthed a system of graft and winking at crime that is a disgrace to the fair name of any city and yet not a single daily paper and, *mirabile dictu,* not a single religious paper—and many religious papers are published in Richmond—not a single one of them has sounded a warning note against the grafters. Is this true?

To our minds it is one of the ominous signs of the times that our religious, as well as secular, press is so dependent on the financial assistance of wrong-doers that they do not dare to take a stand against the evils at their door.

If there is graft in New York City, you can count on both the daily papers and the religious weeklies writing long editorials lamenting the fact of such crime, but when the crime is in their own home they are as silent as the grave.

THE WHISKEY LICENSE GRAFT

Thousands of Dollars Paid to Smith, Pollock and Others for Their Influence in Securing Licenses.

We have many letters and verbal communications from citizens concerning an enormous graft system which has been going on for the last two years in the city. This information shows a frightful state of affairs in reference to granting liquor licenses and the reports we have had were so revolting that we would not at first believe them because they pointed at the courts themselves with such forceful charges of corruption.

We have, however, carefully investigated and verified these

reports and find them only too true and so we publish here certain facts which should cause the Christian people of Richmond to arouse in their righteous indignation and blot out forever the crimes which underlie these public evils and they should thus make Richmond a city whose citizens can point with pride to their government and say, "We have put the grafters out and Richmond can henceforth truthfully say, our city is honestly run, our taxes are honestly spent, we get dollar for dollar in return for our expenditures and citizens can get a square deal in the capitol of Virginia, birth-place of American Liberties."

As it is, however, there is graft in the granting of whiskey licenses.

You see, applications have to be filed in January for the current year's licenses and as there are always more applicants than the 150 licenses which can be granted, and as the court has about two months to grant the licenses in, the barkeepers are always in doubt as to who will be given a license until the last license is granted.

In the meantime certain lawyers get busy and one of them goes to a saloon keeper whose license has not yet been granted and says you give me one hundred dollars and I'll use my influence to get your license through and if I get it you pay me $300 more, and the saloon keeper generally forks up the amount and if he has been keeping a rather disorderly place, the fee charged is of course larger and so certain politicians in Richmond have made many thousands of dollars each year just through this saloon graft alone.

Mr. Pollock has openly made the boast on many occasions in the presence of men very prominent in city affairs that he had made thousands of dollars in this way.

Mr. Harry Smith is another who has made much money in this manner, and it is rumored that others have done likewise, but we have been unable to verify these reports in respect to the others.

Now, what does all this mean? Does it mean that the Hustings court is also corrupt? It certainly means that those who pay the bill think so. Can you concieve of a barkeeper paying

to a lawyer from $100 to $500 or more for his influence in getting a license if he did not think that the judge of the court, who is the only one who can possibly grant licenses, was to get at least a part of that money?

It is absurd to pay a lawyer for a thing when the lawyer is not the one who grants the thing.

Courts are not supposed to be influenced by what an outsider will say. And especially is this true when there is no trial,—when no pleading is necessary,—when no interpreting the law is in question,—when legal knowledge has absolutely no bearing in the case, yet here we have men who, besides paying the license required by law for the sale of whiskey, etc., pay another big sum of money for that privilege into the hands of professional grafters who make a business of living like parasites off the body of a corrupt and outlaw business.

We confess it is sickening to have to be the disseminator of such loathsome news as this, for, though every bar man in town is perfectly familiar with this rotten state of affairs, still he knows that if he talks too much his license can be taken away by any one who has enough "influence" to have that license granted.

WHO THE EDITOR IS

Inasmuch as the editor of The Idea has been maligned and lied about by those who feel that The Idea hurts their business, i. e., by the crooked politicians and those special interests which rely for their existence on the crooked politician, we deem it wise to depart from our usually modest custom of keeping ourselves in the background and so we publish below a few statements which will serve to introduce us to our readers and thus correct certain false impressions concerning our history and our motive in publishing this magazine.

To be brief, the Editor planned for years to make the ministry his vocation and to that end he took a course of study at Richmond College, from which he was graduated in 1900 with the B. A. Degree, and then gave his time to preaching and

teaching. He found that not being able to conform very readily to denominational tenets he could accomplish more as an editor than as a preacher and, in order to prepare for editorial work he gave up preaching and obtained employment with the People's National Bank of Lynchburg as assistant bookkeeper. From this position he went to that of bookkeeper for the wholesale lumber concern of Massie & Pierce, and it was while with them that the first number of THE IDEA was published in July, 1906.

THE IDEA was published "semi-occasionally" in Lynchburg, until April of this year, four numbers appearing this year, the last one a month after we had decided to move to Richmond. Let the statement answer those who have been circulating reports that THE IDEA was run out of Lynchburg. The fact is that those very people who make this statement, namely, the whiskey people, are the very ones that THE IDEA was so largely instrumental in running out of Lynchburg.

We don't think that those who read THE IDEA are inclined to think that THE IDEA is the running kind. The only trouble that THE IDEA ever had was when Judge Christian of Lynchburg, in November, 1906, nearly three years ago, issued a rule against the editor for "contempt of court" in that THE IDEA had exercised its rights in criticizing the judge for his immoral acts. Now let it be clearly understood that when the editor took an appeal from the little judge's decision that judge is said to have remarked to a friend on Main Street, that he would give $5,000 to get out of the scrape. And let this be known also that the little judge was reversed by the Supreme Court of the State, and the rights of THE IDEA upheld.

Now in order that we may be more clearly seen by the people of Richmond we publish below extracts from letters of recommendation given us by men well known here in the city of Richmond.

Dr. William E. Hatcher, President of the Board of Trustees of Richmond College wrote: "Your record was full of honor at Richmond College, and I expect you to honor the College in the future."

Dr. Chas. H. Winston, Professor of Physics, wrote: "He

stood well in his class and impressed me very favorably, both personally and as a student. He has much of the true Scientific spirit."

Professor R. E. Gaines wrote: "I have known him intimately and have had abundant evidence of his intellectual ability and straightforwardness of character. * * * I heartily recommend him for his character, attainments, and social qualities indicate that he will be a successful teacher."

Professor R. J. Kellogg of Greek wrote: "He graduated with high honors at the commencement just past, and has secured a very thorough grasp of the language. His character as a man and Christian is thoroughly good. I can give him strong recommendations."

Dr. Boatwright, President, wrote: "He finished the work of his classes with distinction. He possesses abilities much above the average. * * * I believe he will do faithfully what he undertakes, and his abilities and his intellectual training should enable him to achieve distinguished success."

We have many other letters from others, but publish these from Richmond men in order to introduce ourselves by Richmond people to Richmond people.

We hope we will not be considered immodest in publishing these statements about ourselves, especially as we do it in order to correct false impressions.

Now as to the recent work of The Idea in Lynchburg.

Let us add these two brief passages from Lynchburg men:

Rev. W. A. Ayers, the gifted pastor of College Hill Baptist church in Lynchburg, of which the editor is a member, wrote on May 31st, last: "I regret that you are separated from us and from our church work. I trust that you may be enabled to accomplish as much for Richmond as you have for Lynchburg. I feel that you did a work here of which you may well be proud. 1. The red light district was cleaned up. 2. A better administration of city affairs and last, the saloons were removed. You had the sympathy of the best people here. I wish to join with your host of friends in placing a wreath upon your brow, for the good you wrought for the common weal of the people. I bespeak for you the sympathy and support of the

best people in Richmond and especially the pastors of the churches there, etc." * * *

Your friend and brother, W. A. Ayers.

Rev. J. L. Nichols, the fearless pastor of the Methodist Protestant Church, wrote: "I have heard many of the people speaking of the good work done by you in your little sheet and we hope that you will be given the opportunity to do as much in Richmond. Your place will be hard to fill here. I hope the ministers of the city will endorse your work and help you all they can and pray for your success in uncovering sin and defeating the works of darkness."

If the preachers in Richmond would care to fight, they could put the public rascality on the run and make out of Richmond a clean city in a year's time.

A HUSTLING BOY

Who'll Win in the Idea's Newsboy Contest?

One Hustler Sells 112 of one Issue.

Newsboys are much interested in the outcome of the contest now going on for the watch to be given to the boy selling the largest number of copies of The Idea in the month of July.

There will be nine other valuable prizes, so that the hustlers won't be disappointed if they fail to be number one when the decision is announced about August 3d. There are five issues for the month of July, and it will take until Monday, the 2nd of August to get in all the returns. The decision will be announced in the number of August the 7th. The management of The Idea is gratified by the success of the magazine; is proud to announce the circulation has gradually increased to 3, 500, as shown by our statement to the Post-Office

Department, sworn to before a notary in our application for second-class mailing privileges.

This statement shows a distribution of the 3,500 copies as follows:

Copies to news agents	1,025
Copies sold by newsboys	2,255
Copies sold over counter and given away	25
Regular subscribers	70
Copies to be mailed as samples	125
Total	3,500

One newsboy sold 112 copies last Saturday and we are very desirous of getting more boys like him. Made $2.24 which is a good sum for any boy in these days.

Now we have several routes we want worked by live, up-to-date boys. We want several boys for the west end and for Barton Heights and Church Hill and other sections of town and if we can find good boys we will make special inducements to them. Call this to the attention of some live boy in your neighborhood and have him come down to see us, on Monday, preferably, and we will show him how he can make a good little sum every week.

Are you an individual or only one of the push?—*Hubbard.*

HOT!

Here is a story which we purloin bodily from *The Philistine* and patch up to suit the occasion:

A young woman gets on a Lakeside car and taking a copy of The Idea out of her Boston bag, begins to read. She evidently has not read more than a couple of pages, when she slowly and carefully takes off her shoes and stockings. She turns the stockings wrong side out, puts them on again, and replaces her shoes.

The passengers look on, first amused and then perplexed. An old gentleman finally reaches over and says, "You will pardon my seeming rudeness, lady, but why did you just now engage in this strange procedure?"

"Why, sir, I was reading THE IDEA and I found the text such hot stuff that I felt compelled to turn the hose on myself." And over the meadow the bob-white sang to its mate, and the white clouds scurried across the blue.

Is it right for a councilman who had a voice in deciding the salary of a justice to be allowed to practice in that justice's court?

We understand that Councilman Pollock was largely influential in raising the salary of Justice Crutchfield and yet this same councilman has nearly all the cases which come up in Justice Crutchfield's court. This is a gross miscarriage of justice. Every man is human and every justice must be influenced consciously or unconsciously, by the wishes of one who helps fix his salary.

SERVANTS OR MASTERS

The people are largely responsible for the fact that their public officials get above their positions and become haughty and proud. We appoint a man to serve us, and then whenever we desire to instruct our servants we find ourselves, the sovereign, humiliating ourselves before the servant and begging, petitioning, "praying" him to do our will, when we should just simply instruct or direct him so to do. When we appear before him to express our orders to him and find him overbearing instead of giving him orders we find ourselves cringing and cowering before him, who holds his position as a gift and a duty imposed by our hands.

Now it comes about this way. We are an English-speaking people, and we inherit our legal forms and laws from England, which is a monarchy. In England the people are servants to the king and the courts. In America the people are the sovereigns to the president and the courts. In a monarchy the people have to pray the king for needed reforms. In America we have to instruct our representatives for needed reforms.

But it happens in America we have borrowed our legal phrases from the law books of England, and so, when we want to get anything done, we pick up an English law book and petition and pray and beg for a thing that is not our servant's to give.

If you were a judge you would likely overlook these ancient servial formalities; but, unfortunately, we sometimes get a judge who can't stand this bowing down to, who is not big enough to see the joke, but on the other hand he takes himself and the people too seriously and he thinks he is in fact a great sovereign of the people to be bowed down before.

You know some people can't stand success or authority thrust upon them. It just ruins them. Whereas, if they had occupied some menial position they might have been real decent folks.

Some of you had better stop grinning over the way THE IDEA hit the other fellow, and commence rubbing the spot where you got hit, for THE IDEA means to hit every citizen who has not manhood enough to take some active stand and do some actual personal work for the betterment of conditions in his own government, when he himself is a part of the kingly authority of that government and can no more shirk that responsibility than a king can. You cannot wash your hands of any public duty by refusing to do your part of the disagreeable work, because, forsooth, you can't afford, for business reasons, to antagonize anyone. Your duty as a sovereign citizen of Richmond and of Virginia comes before your selfish duty to your business, because, if anarchy and tyranny have sway here what will become of the little fortune you have amassed for your children? The best way to look out for your posterity is to take some active part in looking out for good government.

Our forefathers helped us more by fighting for personal and religious liberty than they could have done by amassing wealth for the corruption of the moral and physical welfare of their progeny.

We wonder why a certain police commissioner who has a fine paying job besides being police commissioner, makes the

boast that of the two jobs he'd much rather be police commissioner. Yet some people don't believe there is any graft in Richmond.

ANDY GRIFFTH POLICY KING

Partner of Clyde Saunders in Stock Farm

So many communications have come to us concerning the wide open policy game being run in Richmond that we have sifted the matter down and find that a much worse state of affairs exists than we had ever suspected.

We find the following condition of things. The police department is in silent partnership with Andy Griffith, the saloon keeper on lower Franklin Street, so that his men are never arrested when it is at all possible to ignore their doings. Besides his large policy dealings with white people, Griffith employs a large force of negro men at so much a day to do the dealing with the ignorant negroes who infest this, the vilest section of the city. He agrees to pay their fines for them if they are caught and they therefore work very boldly and make the policy shop a wonderful investment.

Everyone knows the strong temptation to the superstitious negro to gamble and Griffith knows from experience that in them lies a source of immense revenue to him. The gambling, however, is not confined to the negroes—oh, no. Many respectable white men have lost vast sums of money through this facinating game of chance.

But when it comes to breaking up the game, there comes the rub. You see the influence of the ring is behind Griffith so that his game cannot be broken up. His position, therefore, of protected policy king is estimated by a man of large affairs here to be worth at least $50,000 a year and there are many who believe that were it not for this big gambling interest Anthony Griffith would not be the large owner of race horses and dairy cattle as he is.

A recent article in the *News-Leader* tells of the large string of race "horses sent from Acca Farm to the Lake Erie circuit in a special palace express car" by Anthony Griffith and Clyde W. Saunders.

Now the point to be made is this, that Clyde Saunders, recognized boss of Richmond and sub-chairman of the Democratic city committee, is partner to Mr. Griffith. Mr. Saunders acknowledges that his influence in things political is worth money to him. Of course it is, likewse worth money to his partner, and to one who has looked into affairs it appears to be worth thousands and thousands of dollars to him.

As we have stated before certain laws are not enforced at all in Richmond, because those in charge think they have a right to "use their own discretion" in the matter. There is no doubt about the fact that, from a short-sighted view, it pays them to "use their discretion" in refusing to bring to justice those who violate the following laws: (1) The Gambling Laws; (2) The Sunday Closing Laws; and (3) House of Ill Fame Laws.

These three laws are constantly and openly violated under sanction of the police department over which Mayor Richardson is head and Mr. Richardson keeps quiet and simply remarks, "It is not wise to enforce the law" though he has sworn "I do solemnly swear" to uphold all the laws of the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Now, we think that the Mayor realizes his false position, but he can't afford to go back on those who put him in office by enforcing the law because he is ambitious to go to Congress, and he just must have the support of the ring in order to make it.

No, we can see how Mr. Richardson has a glorious chance to come out and enforce the law and thus defy the ring, and pave his way in the popular esteem for more honors in the future but The Idea is going to so turn on the light that unless he does enforce the laws of the State he will not only stand no show for Congress but he'll even lose the little job of Mayor he's got, for there is a way for the sovereign people to compel their servants to do what they have hired them for, and the people are waking up to their power and it is simply a ques-

tion of time when one going into office in Richmond will find a path of duty which he dare not depart from.

You see the Democratic committee which runs things in this town is bossed by Saunders and Leaman and Griffith and Ferrandini and their kind, and these four members of the Democratic committee are barkeepers, or ex-barkeepers or partners to barkeepers.

Don't see any graft, do you?

It is true that there are some laws on the statute books of Virginia which should not be there, but the only way to get rid of them is to enforce them. There is no use in making criminals of the people by keeping them on the books. And there is no reason for a mayor making himself an oath violator simply because the law is not, in his opinion, a good one.

Live up to your oath! Enforce all the laws! And then if any are wrong laws the legislature can be counted on to repeal them. Don't violate your oath and make criminals out of the people, Mr. Mayor.

CONTRIBUTED EDITORIALS.

According to J. Thompson Brown, the Commissioner of Agriculture should spell his name with a "C" for a Coiner of Falsehood. Likewise he runs a propaganda of lies, in the interest of his present candidacy. It looks ugly for the commissioner because Mr. Brown leaves off gloves, accepts an aggressive attitude towards Mr. Koiner and cites witnesses, including the president of the joint committees on Agriculture to testify in the premises. True Mr. Brown wants Mr. Koiner's berth, but he has a right to want it and his prompt acceptance of the *onus probandi* will go far toward securing the good will of the electorate.

Mr. Koiner's veracity and good faith are challenged point blank and Mr. Brown names enough witnesses to upset the Koiner apple cart right in the road unless the Commissioner is prepared to adduce some exceedingly telling evidence in rebuttal. It is up to the Commissioner now to prove Brother Brown a liar and a slandered or one more beneficiary of the office-holders' trust is liable to go down in the dust of defeat.

The measures of a freight-traffic schedule are predicated on that simple rule the "ancient plan that they may take who have the power and they may keep who can." Moreover, these measures are adjusted to the flexible standard expressed in conjure dialect as "all the traffic will bear." Look out sweet railway barons! You are just emerged from one bad, black scare. Take heed lest a wusser case befall. Service rendered is the basis of freight charged. Gauging the gauge by any fancy yardstick is worshipping the "Moloch of Names," the blackest devil of the bunch.

An era of right thinking is dawning upon us. A wag said the other day, of a cross-eyed girl, otherwise beautiful, "that girl's straight, but she looks crooked." So thousands of us looking through mental strabismus at simple facts, have been seeing life in distorted shape. Other thousands gazing from the wrong point of view have been forcing false values on life and the world as it passes in show. Blind partisans we have set our faces against truth and valued men for opinions sake, rather than the virtue that animates their dealings with each other. Get to your proper point of view, while you are seeing things straight. A corrupt Democrat is neither more nor less than corrupt. Thousands of them there are amongst us, wearing the livery of heaven, while they eagerly serve the cause of hell and a crooked Republican walks in crooked ways and the age of grab and graft is prolonged and extended, because we won't look straight. Partisanry is made part of our religion while we are fast forgetting how knowledge is sweet and Truth lends its wings to freedom. The officials of your governmental machinery are your servants. Weigh your servants, and exact true service of them. Don't let them off with a lip litany of partisanry they set up, in lieu of a genuine creed of duty.

FROM "SNOW BOUND."

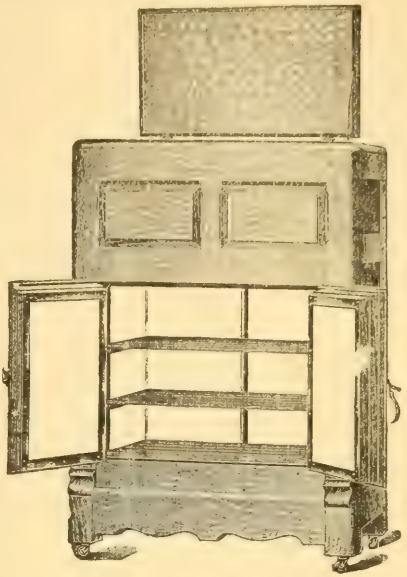
"I was rich in flowers and trees,
Humming birds and honey bees;
For my sport the squirrel played,
Plied the snouted mole his spade."

WE SELL and Guarantee

The New Columbia Champion Refrigerators, New Process Gas Ranges, McDougall Kitchen Cabinets,

And Everything in Reliable

Furniture and Floor Coverings



JONES BROS. & CO., Inc.

1418-1420 E. Main St., Richmond, Va.

Help the cause of civic cleansing by patronizing those who advertise in The IDEA, and tell them where you saw their ad . . . .

Don't Forget it, Please

Newsboys!

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The Idea Sued
Electric Contract Graft
Koiner, Commissioner
Democratic Committee
Police Sergeant Drunk
Car Transfer Graft
For The Mayor
In the Same Boat

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"NERVE."

When I have become so base a slave to my own servants as to be afraid to discuss with my fellowman the affairs of *my* government, then bring forth the shackles and bind them upon me, for let it not be said that besides being a slave, I was a miserable coward.

You may be a slave without shackles but as for me I'm only a slave when made so by physical conditions. You and I should be ashamed to admit that we were part of a government under which it takes *nerve* to discuss our own affairs. Are you fool enough not to see that you are on the road to actual physical slavery when evil has so engulfed the government as to make it dangerous to talk or write the truth against it. You should be ashamed to admit that it takes *nerve* to fight to run your own government.

To our mind it takes *nerve* to sit quietly by and raise children to a heritage of slavery. It would indeed take nerve and wonderful self-control for the editor of THE IDEA to keep his mouth shut and his pen idle while the powers of evil were gradually stealing away his rights and he had to contemplate the resulting poverty and degradation of his own progeny.

Are you willing to see your children slaves simply in order

to make money now, by not stirring up a rumpus and hurting business? We would rather die in poverty and sorrow and seeming disgrace than to suffer the deep hell of remorse over seeing our own sons or our sons' sons sink into ignorance and vice and poverty because we would not do our duty to them by fighting when we could.—A. A. Y.

THE IDEA SUED!

Mr. Saunders Enters Suit Against the Printers of the Idea and A. A. Yoder.

July 27th—There has been entered in the Law and Equity Court a suit for $20,000 damages by Clyde W. Saunders against Rufus C. Williams and R. H. Williams, doing business as the Williams Printing Company, and Adon A. Yoder, process returnable the third Monday in August, 1909.

In the first place let us state that Mr. Saunders evidently knows that in law he has absolutely no case against the printers and we now charge that this action on his part is intended as a scare to keep the printers from printing The Idea, and this attempt to make a printer of job print a party to a suit and thus make printers believe that by taking our job work they lay themselves open to the expense of a lawyer's fees for defense is one unworthy of a fair fighter.

If Mr. Saunders wants to fight let him fight fair and not enter suit against one who is not the publisher and has nothing to do with the matter published.

Mr. Saunders knows who the publisher of The Idea is and who in law is responsible for all its contents and he knows that the printer is only an employee of the publisher and that the publisher alone is held accountable for the contents of a publication.

The trouble with Saunders is, the truth is at last getting out and he can't stand it and so in order to make a show at denial just before election, he enters the suit in the hope that

it will help his prospects at the polls where there seems no doubt about his defeat if a fair election could be had. But fair elections are such stuff as dreams are made of with such a committee of vagabonds and criminals as at present run Richmond. A very prominent politician recently made the statement that the election of legislators is not one half so important as the election of this city committee.

We wonder where the $20,000.00 damages comes in? Is it worth $20,000.00 to Mr. Saunders to be a member of the City Committee for one term?

Our only regret is that the trial of Mr. Saunders will not come off before election. It would make interesting reading for voters who want good government in Richmond.

Slide, Kelly, Slide!

So they've entered suit—Sui! Sui! Sui! Sui!

Read our ads., and especially the last page.

The Electric Award Farce

Crooked Work

Competition Eliminated by Discriminatory Specifications Charged by the Four Former Bidders. The Individuals to Blame.

At the meeting of the Council Electric Committee last week to consider bids for contract work of erecting a municipal electric plant, five electric concerns were represented and four out of the five concerns stated that the specifications were so

worded in favor of the General Electric Company that they were practically eliminated from the competition. It will be remembered that four or five bids were received on the former specifications but such charges of underhanded work were made that new specifications were drawn and new bids were asked.

Now the point to be made is this, that after the former bids had been examined the Electric Committee had the specifications changed in seven places and in each of these seven places the changes were such as to conform to the make or the standards of the General Electric Company and thus make it impossible for some and utterly impracticable for any of the former bidders, except the General Electric Company, to make bids on the revised specifications.

In other words, after the committee found that there was opposition to awarding the contract to the highest bidder and after having determined as the committee chairman said in the council meeting, that they were going to award it to the General Electric Company anyhow, the committee made such changes that it was impossible for other companies to compete.

In bidding on these specifications every company except the General Electric would have to construct special machines to conform to the standards of the General Electric Company.

The seven points in which Trafford, engineer, made changes in the specifications are as follows:

1. Efficiency of the water wheel generators.
2. Speed of turbine units.
3. Exciting current of water wheel generators.
4. Feeder regulators.
5. Absolute cut-outs for arc lamps.
6. Wattage at arc lamp terminals.
7. Switch boards.

Now in order not to worry the reader with technical terms let us take just one, namely, the first change.

In the first case the efficiency was not fixed but the various bidders bid on the following efficiencies:

Allis Chalmers Co., -	93.25 Per Cent.
Westinghouse Company	93.50 Per Cent.
General Electric - -	94.00 Per Cent.
Crocker Wheeler - -	94.50 Per Cent.

And now in the revised specifications Mr. Trafford specified

the efficiency of the General Electric Co., namely, 94.00 Per Cent. This is clearly a discrimination in favor of the General Electric Co., and if we had space we could show that in each of the seven changes made the change was made to conform to the bid formerly made by the General Electric Company. As Mr. Seabrook of the Westinghouse Company said: "The new specifications adopt the General Electric standards in each case and compel all bidders to conform to them. This means that other bidders must make special machines and attempt to compete with the General Electric standards, the evident intention being to put all bidders at a disadvantage.

No reason can be given for the standards adopted except that they best suit the General Electric Co., and will enable that Company to sell this plant at an extravagant price to the city."

In reference to the feeder regulators the specifications were changed so as to read "General Electric Co.'s" only, though formerly the specifications said "or equal."

In the first case the horizontal turbine was specified in the drawing. This time the vertical is accepted simply because that is bid on by the General Electric Co.

The Crocker Wheeler Co. said: "Your specifications discriminate in favor of one company."

The Allis-Chalmers Co., said: "The specifications entirely eliminate competition by requiring the General Electric Co's make of equipment." The nail was hit squarely on the head by Mr. Seabrook of the Westinghouse Co., when he said: "We could not but decide that you did not want our bid."

Now this whole matter can be understood if you know that the sub-committee that practically ran this General Electric matter through was composed of Pollock and Richardson and Pollard, and it don't take a Philadelphia lawyer to see why Mr. Trafford changed about so completely after the sub-committee meeting. It is also worthy of note that Mr. Leaman who accepted money from the Bell Company to influence councilmen, has been using his influence lobbying with councilmen to get them to vote for the General Electric Company's bid. It looks rotten all the way through. Mr. Reynolds, who is the only member of the Electric Committee who seemed at all con-

cerned to have a fair award, after questioning Mr. Trafford made this remark in the committee: "It is a very remarkable state of affairs to me."

So say we all of us. First the highest bid is accepted and then when that is defeated, specifications are so "fixed" as to cut out all others.

Subscribers to THE IDEA dropped postals Nos. 4722 and 4606 in the mail July 27 without writing anything on them. The service will be started soon as they send addresses.

If Clyde Saunders is growing wings THE IDEA owes him an apology. We are loth to accept such prodigies as normal illustrations of natural history and we require corroborative evidence before we knock under. The good gentlemen has been mightily abused since folks first began calling him a ringster. If now he makes his saintship good, whatever are we going to do? Our editorial vocabulary hasn't anything like languauge enough to do justice to the occasion. We shall be exuding apologies wherever men do congregate to glorify St. Clyde.

Vote Against Saunders and Leaman

THE ELECTION NEXT WEEK

VOTERS ATTENTION

The Papers "in the Ring". Leaman as Lobbyist.

The most important election which Richmond voters will be called on to participate in this year is that of City Committeemen.

Did it ever occur to you that the Richmond daily papers never said a word about the election of a Democratic City

Committee until it was too late for those who might want to qualify to make application for the positions.

If the Richmond papers dominated by the Bryan family desired to stand for a clean city as they now and then boast they do, why did they not urge clean men to run for these positions and let them know that an election was coming off. We venture the assertion that not one man in ten knew until the books were closed for application that this important committee was to be elected on August 5th.

We also wonder why this same Democratic Committee did not have their election fixed on the same day that they ordered the primary election for other city officers. Why did they put this election with the governortorial election?

Now this is the most important statement made in this number of The Idea:

Richmonders need not attempt to get clean men in office until they first get a Democratic Committee that wont steal.

Members of this committee stole in the last election,—and we can prove it,—just as they have had the reputation of doing ever since the war.

Vote for clean committeemen. Saunders and Leaman are the only members of the ring you can possibly put out this time. Don't neglect this opportunity to strike a blow at crooked politics by scratching their names on the ticket on August 5th. Break Saunders' domination of city affairs and stop Leaman from using his office to get through pet legislation as he is doing now in button-holing councilmen to get them to vote for the electric award to the General Electric Co.

Police Sergeant Wiltshire Fined $25.00 for Being Drunk

Some time ago Policeman Lear was fined $150 for being drunk and the papers made large news items out of it. Now, however, when Detective Sergeant Wiltshire is fined, as he was by the police board, recently, his fine being only $25. and

being a sergeant, the fine is kept secret and the papers say nothing about it.

It is manifestly unfair to the private to give him a heavy fine and publish the fact to the world and yet fine one higher up only $25 and shield him from the public.

Now there are several criticisms to be made concerning this action. In the first place, the law nowhere provides for secret trials. In the second place, the police board has no right to hold secret meetings.

IN THE SAME BOAT

Newspapers and Crooked Politicians Fighting the Idea

A bunch of crooked politicians were recently discussing THE IDEA when one of them remarked that "if he (a certain crook) will beat the face off of Yoder, I'll see to it that it don't get into the papers."

The rascals know that they can count on the daily papers to shield them from publicity and everybody already knows that the courts here nearly always let them off lightly or more often refuse even to bring them to trial.

When the gamblers were arrested in May at the exposition grounds the newspapers shielded from the public the rich and powerful politicians and the law never even attempted to arrest them. Freed by the courts and freed by the press.

It's not dangerous in Richmond to be a criminal, but it is dangerous to talk about them.

It is a great blessing to be born into a family where strict economy of time and money is necessary.—*Hubbard.*

FOR THE MAYOR

"Ours a Government of Laws Not of Men."

"Incompetents, Corruptionists and Buffoons" "Rule Over Police" Justice W. J. Gaynor of the Supreme Court of New York scores Mayors and Police for being above the Law.

"There is no place under our system of Government for an autocrat." It can not be too often said and ought to be *pasted in the hat of every official* and especially in that of every mayor and police commissioner, that ours is a government of laws and not of men. No official, however high, is above the law. He has no right or lawful power to do anything except the law permits him to do it, and then only in the manner and way which the laws prescribes to him. That is free government, the opposite is despotism. For an official to set himself above the law and do as he likes is despotism.

Things are done here constantly by the rulers of the police, any one of which would create a revolution in England and endanger the throne if not apologized for and redressed.

Tens of thousands of false arrests and imprisonments are committed here yearly.

People are locked up over night in cells and taken to court next morning and discharged because not even a charge can be made against them. This has become the daily routine as every magistrate can testify.

The police force is not to blame, but the persons who are put in rulership over them, incompetents, corruptionists and mere buffoons.

Police rulers are not above the law. You can not rule a free people in a lawless way.

First of all it is for officials to keep the law and not trample on and defy it and set at naught the rights of others.

Thus spoke Justice Gaynor, and other fearless judges are saying the same thing and yet right here in Richmond we have a mayor who openly says he is above the law,—that if a law don't seem wise to him he will not enforce it,—that an executive officer may take the law in his own hands and do as he thinks best, not as the legislature which makes the law thinks.

Of all the college men who succeed, who shall say whether they succeeded by and through the help the college gave or in spite of it.—Hubbard.

A GREAT AWAKENING

PREACHERS AND BUSINESS MEN AROUSED

Against Officials Who Won't Enforce the Law

It is with pleasure that we notice the attitude which the pulpit is taking towards the exposition of wrong-doing. In the past few days communications are coming to us from preachers, to whom we have sent sample copies of THE IDEA, commending the work and bidding us go forward. In some of the foremost churches of the city attention of the voters was called last Sunday to THE IDEA's fight for clean government. The Rev. Tilden Scherer of Hoge Memorial Presbyterian Church, sends us a copy of *"The Richmond Presbyterian"* from which we copy the following editorial. It is indeed a lamentable fact that these awful conditions do exist with so little "protest from the church of God."

FRIGHTFUL STATE OF AFFAIRS—OFFICERS OF LAW WINK AT CRIME.

"Violation of specific laws with the entire knowledge of the officers of the law."

"Five Hundred Harlots" protected by the police.

(The following is part of an editorial in the Richmond Presbyterian.)

Is there not something radically wrong with a public sentiment which tolerates, practically without protest, the wholesale prostitution of ignorant and unprotected girlhood?

Is there not something radically wrong with the public sentiment that allows, practically without protest, the open and known flourishing of dozens of resorts whose existence is absolutely contrary to the law, and in which literally hundreds of women and girls of every degree of vileness are openly housed as a means of gain both to unprincipled landlords and to those in charge of such institutions whose stock in trade is the virtue of women, and as a vantage point for the propagation of their nefarious business of seducing male and female alike?

Is there not something radically wrong with the public sentiment that allows, practically without protest, the continuance of this condition from year to year under the eye of practically every man and woman in the city and with the entire knowledge of the officers of the law, and yet in direct violation of specific laws on the subject?

Does the church acknowledge her imbecility in this matter? Or, granting that it is not a question for the church as such do the Christian ministers and laymen of the churches of the city admit their imbecility in the case? Or, do we, like the officers of the law, wink at these things, and pass them by on the specious and puerile argument of "necessary evil," or "it's none of my business," etc.?

It is a thought at which every Christian's cheek should flush with shame that under our very eyes, open before us in glaring violation of the laws of the city, approximately FIVE HUNDRED harlots live and thrive and spread their nets for the entanglement of others of their own sex and for enticing from the paths of virtue the boys of the city, so that if one youth in ten escapes their clutches it is more chance than otherwise—and this condition continues from generation to generation with practically not a protest from the church of God, the boasted guardian of truth and purity in all ages.

Brethren, let's eliminate the farcical laws on this subject

from our statute books or else let's eradicate the moral leprosy for our body politic. Let's cease our playing at being a great moral force and abandon the poor working girl and misguided boy to their fate, or else let's throw the strong arm of the church and the law about them and defy the agents of prostitution and of crime! TILDEN SCRERER.

SITUATION WANTED

An Agricultural Applicant and his Renewal of Contract

"Is He Honest? Is He Capable? Is He Fit?"

When a servant applies for a renewal of his commission, in the service of the public, it is up to all interested to examine his record and apply the simple queries of Jefferson: "Is he honest, is he capable, is he fit?"

The Governor of the Commonwealth is not too high to live above this standard, and surely the Commissioner of Agriculture is not.

Nor is it to be said that faithful administration of the Governor's office is any more important to the public than a just discharge of duty on the part of their Commissioner of Agriculture. An Auditing Committee of the Legislature, on Mr. Koiner's office methods, has affixed a stigma on his front that answers all test questions flatly and conclusively in the negative.

G. W. Koiner is not and has never been closely joined with those who do things of import, agriculturally. It is the duty of the press to make the record clear.

When for fitness sake the servant challenges his public to a reward of merit, a verdict of selection at the primary means:

"Well done, good and faithful servant," "You are going some, keep a going." But here THE IDEA enters protest.

The report of the Committee, unanimously signed and submitted, adopts the findings of its co-equally commissioned experts and shows that Commissioner Koiner did not obey laws made for his governance or hold others to obedience. Besides delinquencies on his own part, it is shown in a "Statement of Fertilizer seized" that a long line of violations of law had characterized the conduct of fertilizer factories, under the Koiner regime.

The whole revenue of the department hangs on the fertilizer tax. Rotteness at the root of the plant has stunted the whole growth of an institution intended to work out good for all the agricultural interests of the dominion.

If the voters want another term of Koiner 'tis up to them to speak out now or let him slide over the gulf of oblivion into the ranks of servants discharged and replaced.

In this connection the accountants say: "A number of questions and answers by Mr. E. Bruce Chesterman, Chief Clerk to the Commissioner, speak for themselves * * * This examination developed the fact that at no time had the books been balanced and closed at the end of the year; or has any effort been made to balance with the State Auditor's books."

This report further shows most careless and unbusiness methods in the issue and sale of fertilizer tags, the source of all revenue to the Department, and "there appears to have been very little care in the handling of these tags, ordered in lots from some printing firm in boxes of 100 each, placed in a store room to which others than the stamp clerk have access. Numbers of tags could be removed, and if sold to the consumer would thereby entail a loss to the department."

The record of a public officer asking re-election at the hands of the people is proper subject of investigation, and criticism, and it will not satisfy the public for Mr. Koiner and his friends to meet the issue by deprecation of dignified and proper criticism.

One damage suit and three advertising contracts this week. Watch us grow!

CAR TRANSFERS

How the Car Company Fleeces the People

The other Sunday a woman and three children were out to Forest Hill Park and coming back on the car she asked the conductor for transfers down Main Street to Church Hill.

She got the transfers and boarded a car on Main and after having gotten down to Fourteenth Street the conductor came around and asked her for her fare and then refused to take her transfers, saying that they were not good on his car. Now, remember that all the lines are owned by one company and yet a transfer issued by the company is not good on its own cars. Well, the woman not having the cash, had to get off at Fourteenth Street and her transfers being run out, she could not utilize them by returning to Seventh Street to use them, and even if they had been good it would be worth more than the money paid to walk back seven or eight blocks up hill on a hot July day to be able to use her transfers.

In this particular case she simply had to walk a mile or more home with a family of tired-out children because we permit a car company to act the hog and fleece the people "going and coming." And this same company is now about to ask for valuable extension of franchises from the city and not a daily paper is independent enough to say anything against their high-handed methods. Other cities are charging the car companies for these valuable rights of using the public streets for their private road beds and the city of Chicago is getting in return a large per cent of the earnings of the car companies which in one year amounts to hundreds of thousands of dollars. Other cities make the companies pave the streets along which they pass. Why can't Richmond demand this when the company asks for these franchises in the near future.

The citizen should not only profit from this valuable privi-

lege given car companies, but should also demand up-to-date and modern equipment. The street-car is the poor man's carriage and he should be treated with the very best. He pays for it in paying his taxes to make these streets and build the city for the car company to live off. Let him demand a just return.

WEAKLINGS IN OFFICE—DOES THIS APPLY IN RICHMOND?

President McGowan, of the New York Board of Aldermen, in an address at Parker Memorial Hall, Boston, recently, on "City Government and the Public Schools," along with other interesting comments, said:

"Never elect to office a weak man. Weak men are usually termed nice men, but as officials they are a menace to the State. The weak or dishonest official does not always receive cash for his vote, but is tempted by hope of higher honors. The tempter, like the serpent, 'charms only to destroy;' like the boa constrictor, he first covers his victim with slime and then swallows him, to digest him at will, only to throw him out eventually in filth and corruption."

PERSONAL AND A WORD TO THE POOR MAN.

Since there are some who did not see our initial number, we would reiterate, that our writing is not prompted by any base motive. We have no axe to grind. We have no spite against anyone. If we seem bitter or harsh, it is because we feel it a duty of a public organ to condemn the evil irrespective of persons. For Mayor Richardson, as an individual, we have nothing but the kindliest feelings, but should we let our personal feelings of friendliness to a man force us to neglect our higher duty to the community or the State? Individuals we love; their errors we hate: And since government is of necessity a most difficult problem, and one which requires the closest scrutiny on the part of the people, every one, and certainly every paper should feel it its duty to fearlessly guard the law, their law, from falling into disrepute.

Our cities are more loosely managed than our States,

and it is largely because of the feelings of friendship between the papers and the city officials, being, in the close community of the city, of necessity, intimately acquainted with each other, that the papers so easily neglect their larger duty by overlooking, and thus encouraging the evils of city management. The Idea finds it hard to condemn, and we would gladly drop our pen and retire to the more congenial and healthful atmosphere of natural surroundings if we did not feel it a duty to contribute what we can to the redeeming of our times. We owe it to ourselves; we owe it to our families; we owe it to posterity, to make our country better for having lived in it. Our experience in the past has shown us that we can accomplish much even with this little affair to make the lot of those dear to us a better one. The evils of bad government which are developing in our cities, yes, in Richmond, are alarming to one who believes in Democracy. The trend of the times is not only toward the continued oppression of the poor and the unfortunate, but what is worse, it is toward the constant enlargment of the proportion of the poor to the community. Our fight is against the evils of the government which tends, at present, to put larger power and more money daily into the hands of a few, and less of the necessities of life into the hands of the many. The poor man, at present, is getting poorer, and the rich man richer, because those whom we elect to office have been traitors to us in making laws hurtful to the poor, and not enforcing the laws existing against the wealthy. We shall fight for the majority against the powerful, though criminal, minority; even though in so doing we, at times, find it our disagreeable duty to fire point blank at an individual.

It would be interesting for the citizens to know who paid the taxes this last winter for a large lot of voters who were unqualified to vote until their taxes were paid, unknown to themselves, and their tax tickets receipted were sent to them by mail. Still there are some people who are so thick headed they can't see that whiskey corrupts politics.



The Prodigal Returns "To The House Of His Fathers After An Absence of Eight Years"

THE PRODIGAL'S RETURN.

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WITH your camera while on your vacation and mail us your films for developing and printing. The amateur season is on.

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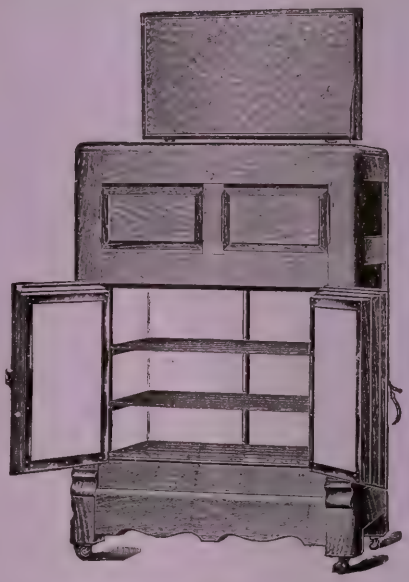
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THE IDEA

A SIGN OF THE TIMES

Vol. III Aug. 7, 1909 No. 10

$2.00 A YEAR

ELECTION NUMBER

Lobbyists and Grafters
Saunders and Leaman

Where Did You Get It?

Koiner Again

Charges Against the Commonwealth's Attorney

And Much Other Stuff Worth While

FOR SALE AT ALL NEWS STANDS

BEING SOME SERMONETTES PUBLISHED WEEKLY FOR THE COMMON GOOD AT RICHMOND, VIRGINIA, BY ADON A. YODER, Editor and Publisher, 904 Capitol St., Richmond, Va.

For Slightly Used Furniture

The Mayo Furniture Co.

1402 East Main Street,

which opened its doors June 1st, last, has sold more Furniture than any TWO houses in Richmond. In fine and medium grades they are the lowest priced house in the

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Estimates cheerfully given on Sidewalk Paving, Halls, Vestibules, Basements, &c.

The Editor has known Mr. Ewing personally for the last twenty years, and he takes pleasure in stating that his reputation for first-class work and straight forward, satisfactory dealing is unexcelled.

THE IDEA

A Sign of the Times

VOL. III AUGUST 7, 1909 No. 10

5 CENTS A COPY $2.00 A YEAR

Published Weekly on Saturday by ADON A. YODER,
904 Capitol Street, Richmond, Va.

VOTERS ATTENTION!

Saunders Lobbyist and Grafter

"I Was Paid $1,000.00 For My Services, $500.00 Before and $500.00 After the Fight was Over" for "Securing Votes in the Two Branches of the Council."

Thus spoke Clyde W. Saunders, then a member of the City Democratic Committee and Superintendent of Clay Ward, before the investigating committee on July 22, 1903. He also said that he was employed by the Bell Co., to help get through the Bell ordinance.

Now if THE IDEA were so maliciously inclined as to desire to slander or libel Mr. Clyde W. Saunders it would be at a loss to know how it would go about it and effectively compete with these words from Mr. Saunders' own mouth.

In the same investigation Mr. Leaman admitted that he received $900.00 for the same class of work. THE IDEA *can't* slander these men.

If the voters of Richmond desire to have clean government let them get at the root of the matter and put clean men on the Democratic Committee by displacing Saunders and Leaman.

Where Did You Get It?

FOR BOSS SAUNDERS.

"This is pure liberty, when freeborn men,
Having to advise the public, may speak free;
Who can and will, deserves high praise:
Who neither can nor will may hold his peace;
What can be juster in a State than this?"—EURIPIDES.

Richmond, August 5.—This is Primary Day! Choose only tried men and true, for guard duty. For servitors of the public select the wise, the just, the true! The cost price of liberty is vigilance!

Is Saunders a saint? Is THE IDEA a detractor? Do honest men and true combine in power self-perpetuated? Does the office-holders' trust consist of the delicate and scrupulous of innocent folks grown rich in politics. Do sudden fortunes materialize to those who mingle the arts of graft and grab with business schemes and cement the service of the people into the power that rules the people? Is San Francisco a myth, Chicago an example of virtue, Tammany Hall a school of saints, Pittsburg a monastery?

When echo answered echo to the call that drove Boss Croker into exile, the burden was: "Where did you get it, Boss?" Where does any boss get it? Is wealth built up in public service ever anything else but a sign of sin and corruption? If Clyde Saunders is proud of the source whence his possessions grew let him answer the simple query, "where did you get it, Boss?"

Philadelphia, Albany, New York have all thrown these images of corruption on the screen to the edification of Richmond.

Can we gaze on the moving panorama of guilt and gather no lesson?

Is it our part only to be warned or being warned shall we be forewarned and forearmed?

Is Clyde Saunders "Boss Saunders" for a term indefinite? Do the officials that constitute the service of the people belong to the grafting grabbers that chalk the slate? This very day we gather in our might and cast him forth or he rivets our chains anew and lends new vigor to his power.

This very day we are cancelling his commission or he is allying new beneficiaries to the mercenaries that march under the flaunting insolence of his banner to the enslavement of better men, born to a wider freedom, of generations yet unspoiled in the lap of luxury and yet untainted of the vices that kill manhood.

Stand to your arms good freemen, for days are coming that try men's souls and only ingrained grit will hold us all fast to the traditions of that glorious ancestry our heritage of freedom is grounded on.

THE HEART OF THE DOMINION

At Daydown is it Jack and the Beanstalk, Or Does Koiner Win Again?

Is the Commissioner of Agriculture called again to play politics with the people's job of tilling the soil and teaching the young idea how to shoot or is his applecart overturned, his enterprise of great pith and moment to the office holders' trust turned awry and lost the name of action.

In the language of the frivolous it will serve us well if "Koiner's head is neatly bagged to-day."

The call of the people will inspire Thompson Brown to take up their work and see it done as they would have it done; for the people, by a servant of the people allied to the work of the people, a hard drudging task that teaches tales of nature at her

best and bids us back to the lure that leads manly hearts and minds to the lessons taught of the soil.

More subscribers are wanted for THE IDEA. Newsboy sales always gratifying, are continuously increasing, but your regular subscriber is a steady reliance, an element of substantiality every periodical covets. THE IDEA is on a mission bent and seeking your aid in the cause of reform and worthier aspirations. Not only should the wrongdoer be detected and punished but those in search of better things and brighter days should be encouraged and helped. Lend us the strong arm of your friendly aid, good folks, and let us all "hit the pike" with a sturdy stride and a steady gait in the lock-step of co-operation. No doubt you think it is money in our clothes, our own business we are pleading for. Well let it go at that, if you feel that way. THE IDEA covets your sympathetic assistance and you may call it charity if you please, anything so the work gets done.

There's no nicer name to have it done in than that of Charity. The sharp stick that prods the evildoer is reared in no malice, nor lifted for vengeance's sake. If you catch us luxuriating in high life, feeding on our own self-indulgence at the cost of our neighbor then you'll have to turn out and reform the reformer and the stronger you grow in your co-operation the heavier will the cudgels prove you grow for our whacking.

CHARGES AGAINST THE COMMONWEALTH'S ATTORNEY

An Interview With Mr. Folkes

THE IDEA is making a stand for law enforcement and to that end has exposed certain flagrant violations of the law, notably those making it a crime to operate a house of ill fame or to sell whiskey without a license, as is openly done on Mayo, Franklin, Fourteenth, Eighth, Seventeenth, East Broad, West Broad and

other protected sections of the city under the eye and with the sanction of the police, the chief of police, the police board, who seem to think they have something to do with law enforcement, and the mayor himself.

This state of affairs has been forcefully brought to the attention of the mayor who openly claims he has a right to ignore the law. The chief of police, a mere figurehead of the police board, takes the same position, though he will take no stand for publication because he knows his position is an illegal and untenable one. The police board, which is really responsible for this condition, by its illegal assumption of powers which it does not legally possess, has decided to do as it pleases about this matter regardless of the statute and the constitution of the State and the charter of the city which place on the police the specific duty of enforcing these laws and which also require the mayor to swear he will see that the police do enforce them.

Now the founders of our State have provided against a condition like this by making an office of commonwealth's attorney, who is charged by the State with looking after the interests of the State and with righting affairs when a State officer refuses to carry out a State law as the whole executive department is refusing to do to-day.

Mr. Folkes has been elected therefore to see to the carrying out of the State's laws in the city of Richmond and as the State's attorney he is the legal counsel of the State and the legal representative of the citizens of the State when in their sovereign capacity as the reigning power of the State, their laws, the State's laws, are violated. Therefore as a sovereign citizen of the State, and on the legal advice of counsel, the editor of THE IDEA has brought to the official attention of the State's attorney, Mr. Folkes, the present violations of the State laws and the refusal on the part of the executive department of the city to enforce these laws. In this interview with the commonwealth's attorney he was told that we had no desire to make a case against the mayor if the law could be enforced without so doing as we believed that the mayor, though he was absolutely wrong in going back on his oath, was apparently conscientious in doing what he did, or rather failing to do his duty, and that our object would be served whenever he, or his executive department, the police force, enforced the law.

We suggested to him that while the law did not require him, the attorney, to do any detective work in ferreting out crime, still the law anticipated that when such crimes were brought to his attention, he would take the proper steps to have the law enforced.

We told him that our object in seeing him and in publishing The Idea was not to make sensational news but to serve a purpose of law enforcement and that to that end we hoped he would lend his assistance.

In naming the specific case of the illegal sale of ardent spirits by houses of ill fame he agreed that it was in his province to bring this to the attention of the police and promised to do so. He also agreed that he would bring to the attention of the police our charge that houses of ill fame do exist in many certain places in the city and he agreed, as we have of course always held, that these places have no legal existence and that where it is known the police should break it up. When, however, we told him that the police not only knew of these houses, but openly admitted that they exist and claim they have a right to permit them to exist under their control and that they do have them under their control and that the mayor himself claimed that the executive department had a right to control these houses, then the attorney said that he would express no opinion as to the mayor's position and would do nothing to compel the mayor's department to enforce the law and that our attorney had advised us wrongfully in directing us to him.

In other words, Mr. Folkes, the State attorney, refused to do anything to compel a State officer to enforce the State laws. When we told him that his position left the situation so that the sovereign citizen had no redress when his laws were violated and that his position put the burden of law enforcement on the citizen he did not, and of course could not, make any satisfactory answer.

We asked him what a citizen could do then in such case and he replied that that was a question between us and the officer and that we were wrongfully informed when we were counseled that he was the one to see. When asked if he were not charged with looking after the State's legal interests in the city he said "yes."

When asked if it were not his duty to take knowledge of flagrant violations of the law he said it was and that he would bring these violations of the law to the attention of the police department. Then we said: "If it is your duty to take official knowledge of these violations why is it not your duty to take knowledge of the violation of the law on the part of the mayor which I not only openly charge, but which the mayor himself openly admits but claims he has a right to make." He replied: "That is a question between you and the mayor."

The interview was quite extended and every possible way of getting the attorney to recognize the state of affairs was taken. He at first talked very freely about law violation in general and admitted that no house of ill fame had a right to exist in the State and that no place had a right to sell liquor without license and when asked if any policeman had a right to ignore any law he answered "I know of no such right" but whenever we mentioned the word mayor he evaded the question and refused to take any stand whatever, though he did admit that the mayor, as chief executive officer of the city, was responsible for all law enforcement in the city.

Now The Idea has this to say that the laws of Virginia contemplate, as it is clearly set forth, that the State's attorney shall look after the interests of the State in such a case of failure to perform duty on the part of the mayor and in this particular case even states how he shall proceed, and the State's attorneys in other cities where there is any civic pride and sentiment in favor of having officers who will do their duty, the attorneys for the State have been the ones who not only institute proceedings but even hire detectives and go to enormous expense to bring the offenders to justice.

Here in Richmond, however, a citizen can not violate a law, but an officer can not only violate a law but even violate an oath. And D. C. Richardson is doing that to-day in Richmond and Minitree Folkes is sanctioning him in it—is party to the crime, is directly violating his oath when he refuses to take knowledge of these charges.

Now let this be understood that personally we have no quarrel with Mr. Folkes or Mr. Richardson. Our interviews with each of them were pleasant and agreeable and for the men

personally we have none but the best feelings and good wishes. From the standpoint of the sovereign citizen talking to his public servant in each case the interview was most unsatisfactory and while as men they are very likeable, still as employees for their respective positions their work and their attitude towards the law is most astonishingly anarchistic and blameable.

It is just such position on the part of public officials that in the past has destroyed governments and wrecked states and checked the march of liberty and right and made revolutions and wars.

We have still enough confidence left in Virginia people to think that there are left some Virginians here in Richmond, where Henry made his famous speech, to resist oppression and stand against tyranny on the part of those who, for political or financial reasons, refuse to abide by their word of honor spoken under the solemnity of an oath.

We shall therefore not stop but shall follow this matter until that public sentiment, which we find so fast increasing, shall become so strong that no officer will dare to act contrary to his oath or duty simply for political reasons.

POLICE PICNIC

Word had been coming to THE IDEA for the past month that the Police Picnic was a grand gambling and drinking tournament and so THE IDEA was solicited to go out and expose the wrong. When the tickets appeared it was noticed that this year they bore the legend, "No minors admitted" and it is said that this is an innovation this year—that formerly lots of fellows from 10 to 21 years of age debauched themselves with beer which was given away to all comers.

Then came the report that Chief Werner had passed along the word—No gambling this year as THE IDEA is on to the game. We went out to the picnic, however, to see, and found posters placed at the gates bearing lines like this: "No cards allowed in the grounds."

This you see was an admission that this public gambling had been allowed in the past.

Inside we found a very decent condition as compared with former years as there were only a few gambling games going on—at least we did not see many. But there is one thing we did notice and that is that anyone could get just as much beer as he wanted for nothing and very many men got more than they could hold and while it was not as bad as former years still "The Police Benevolent Association" was reaping money from the sale of tickets to a big beer drinking affair which made many drunks.

The object of this article however, is primarily to show that the publication of THE IDEA is responsible for stopping practically all of the gambling at the police picnic.

Is not it an acknowledgement that there is something seriously wrong when no minors and no women are allowed to attend?

Can you conceive a preachers' picnic where the children and women were not invited or did not dare to go?

Would any body of men other than the police dare to have a picnic where beer in unlimited quantities was given away?

We'll venture this statement. That nearly every gambler, barkeeper, brewery employee, bum, crooked politician and dive-keeper in and around Richmond was at the picnic.

If anyone desired to study the effects of strong drink and crime on the faces of men he had only to study any group of men at the picnic.

ON THE Q. T. AT THE PICNIC.

First Gambler—"Well, I see we cannot have any poker today."

Second Gambler—"Oh yes, you can, I just lost $25.00 in a horse stall."

TO PREACHERS AND CHRISTIAN MEN.

In talking with preachers about crime in Richmond we have been somewhat surprised at first that they knew so little about

the frightful state of affairs here, but that surprise is dissipated when our attention is called to the fact that the preacher has no means of finding out about crime which other people have, simply because in conversation with them people do not bring up the subject of vice.

We are led to believe that if the pastors of Richmond knew what you and I and the average citizen and business man knows about gambling and the bawdy house section and the criminal element in general he would set up such a protest that Richmond would purge itself of this foul stench and be clean. In other cities the preachers know more about conditions because the daily papers in other cities are not so goody-goody that they will not publish the word harlot or scarlet woman as the religious papers and Bible does, and as the *Times-Dispatch* claims they are too clean to do. Let the press get busy and let every citizen acquaint his pastor with conditions and these pastors, we believe, can be counted on to work for the cause of civic and individual purity.

It would not take but ten per cent of the preachers here to completely change the attitude of our city officers towards crime and criminals. At present their attitude is one of license of crime and criminals.

In fact, the attitude of the executive department of the city of Richmond is so openly that of sanctioning crime that a prominent local Y. M. C. A. official actually thought and argued that the bawdy house in Richmond was a legalized and licensed institution.

Christian men of Richmond, what have we come to that we have permitted our public servants to so nullify our laws that good men think from their attitude that no such laws do exist! Arouse ye! and quit yourselves like men.

TO PUBLIC SERVANTS.

When I hire a servant, I don't surrender my right to criticize him.

Yet some of our public servants are to-day resenting our criticism of their failure to do as we order.

That reminds us of the mule that got his foot up in the stirrup.

We, the people, hired you to work for us, not that you might get in the saddle and make us do the riding-you act.

If you've decided not to ride us, we'll just get another mule.

NOT TO OFFEND BUT TO DEFEND

It is hoped that it is clear to our readers that the motive of The Idea is not one of *offense* to those individuals whom we find it necessary to expose.

We do not feel called upon to roast every one who is a sinner. As far as we are concerned all who have erred may depart in peace. We feel, however, that when one sins against the city or the State he has sinned against us for the State is you and I and as the State suffers you and I suffer. If the State is robbed, you and I are robbed. If there is graft in city affairs you and I are the offended ones and when city or State laws are openly violated it is your law and my law that is violated, and you and I not only have a right to talk about it but it is a duty we, you and I, owe to our children to so turn the light on that respect for law-enforcement shall be preserved to them. So when a public evil-doer is discovered The Idea feels it a duty to us all to expose the rascal and thus defend ourselves against those who have already done us a wrong.

When we advocate the punishment of the evil-doer, it is not because we like to see one punished, but it is because we desire to defend ourselves against those who are despoiling us. To be more explicit: We are not trying to offend Pollock and Saunders and Leaman and the rest. No, no, for them as individuals we have feelings of good will and consideration, but we must expose them in order to defend ourselves against their acts, for their acts are certainly offending to us.

The Idea dislikes the task but feels it as a burdensome duty to defend those who are dear to us from their enemies.

The Idea has not raised the row, it simply has attempted to ward off the blows directed against every citizen.

There are those who say that THE IDEA is making a fight on the rascals. That's not it. We are simply resenting and warding off the fight which they have already long been waging against us.

They started the rumpus. THE IDEA did not do it. We are just stopping the rumpus.

A bird in the bush is worth two on a woman's bonnet.—*Hubbard.*

All men are my brothers; not just those who belong.—*Hubbard.*

THE FAULT

Where the Trouble Lies in our Present Management of the Police Department

TO OUR LEGISLATORS

The reason the laws are not enforced in Richmond lies largely in the fact that the responsibility for and power over the police is divided.

The mayor, who is alone held responsible for the execution of the laws is not clothed with the power of appointment to office and is not charged directly with the efficiency of the force.

The large irresponsible board of seven, who act in secret, have all the power of appointment to the force, and then, when the laws are not enforced, even though the police and mayor should desire that they be enforced, the law makes the mayor responsible for the wrong though practically he is held down by this secret board, unless he is a mighty big man.

And whenever you get a real big man for mayor, this same police board and the rest of the ring work against him and

ultimately defeat him because they know he will hurt their crooked business.

Now let our legislature have the city charter so amended that not only the mayor shall be responsible for the enforcement of the law but that he shall have more power over the force.

Let this crooked management of the force by a secret commission be done away with.

Give the chief the appointive power as the charter contemplated and let him be responsible for all the acts of the force, not to the board, but solely to the mayor.

It has been the history of all law execution that when you divide the responsibility and the power you do it at the expense of efficiency.

It is foolish to make a man responsible for a thing which he is not in charge of, and although the charter contemplated no such authority in the hands of the board as they actually usurp, the big fact remains that not only do they have it but they use it to the debasement of the law and in the interests of crookedness, corruption, vice and crime, which is a blot on any community.

We call on the legislature for a better charter enactment in respect to the management of the police.

Chief Werner on Law Enforcement

In mailing a copy of the automobile speed regulating ordinance to automobile owners in Richmond recently Chief Werner writes the following:

TAKE NOTICE.

This ordinance is forwarded you so that you may fully acquaint yourself with its provisions. On and after August 15, 1909, it will be strictly enforced by this department.

LEWIS WERNER,
Chief of Police.

It therefore appears that Chief Werner does sometimes have some respect for the law.

Would it not be well for the Chief to have some respect for

the State law and send notices to the 500 and more lewd women in Richmond whose names he keeps on his files at his office, that "On and after Aug. 15, 1909, the following law will be respected in Richmond:"

"If any person keep a house of ill fame, etc., he shall be confined in jail not exceeding one year and fined not exceeding two hundred dollars." But No, some laws may be violated and some may not. It all depends on what the little police board decides to do about it.

Which is the greater crime against society—speeding an automobile nine miles an hour or running a damnable dive on Mayo Street. Chief Werner says you may run the degraded, contemptible dive, but you can't run the automobile.

Werner, the great law-giver, has spoken. You may have your high old time down in Richmond's hell but you must not under heavy penalty violate a minor law.

And the mayor says "Amen."

SOME STRONG STATEMENTS BY SENATOR LaFOLLETTE OF WISCONSIN

We *were startled to find our great* industrial organizations *in control of politics,* government and natural resources. They manage conventions, make platforms, dictate legislation. They rule through the very men elected to represent the people.

Ten years of investigation and exposure have disclosed corruption in municipal, State and national government, without a parallel in modern history.

We have made great progress. The people now understand. For the representative who betrays, they feel only contempt. But they know that back of the bad representatives in municipal, State and national government stands *special privilege,* the real enemy of their institutions, fortified with the greatest wealth and power ever massed for the control of government.

The battle is just on. It is young yet. It will be the longest and hardest ever fought for Democracy. In other lands, the people have lost. Here we shall win. It is a glorious privilege to live in this time, and have a free hand in this fight for government by the people.—*Senator LaFollette.*

WHAT IS THE IDEA WORTH TO RICHMOND

Now comes the report that a big gambler exposed by THE IDEA says he would give $10,000.00 if THE IDEA had not exposed him as it did last week.

If there are any who think THE IDEA is not accomplishing good let them notice this statement.

If gambling is stopped to the extent of $10,000.00 does not that mean that $10,000.00 is saved to the citizens?

Does that not mean that THE IDEA is worth at least $10,000 to the community? And yet we wonder how many wealthy Richmonders care $10.00 worth whether THE IDEA continues to exist or not.

Are you interested in the betterment of Richmond only when it means money in your pocket? If not, encourage THE IDEA. Subscribe to-day. Help the work for Better Richmond.

Happy he whose inward ear
Angel comfortings can hear,
O'er the rabble's laughter.—*Whittier.*

In the next number we will quote some law on libel for the edification of Mr. Saunders.

The Idea Is Always Alive

The Idea Always Has Something To Say

The Idea Always Says It

THE IDEA is in the fight to down crookedness, graft and all manner of evils wherever they may be found without regard to the person who may be hit.

THE IDEA will stand for decency and order and law-enforcement, and most earnestly solicits the active moral support of all who care for a better and greater Richmond, and a healthier political atmosphere for Virginia. Lend a hand in the work

By getting THE IDEA every week;

By encouraging IDEA advertisers;

By informing us of wrongdoing on the part of officials.

We are now at work exposing some very startling conditions. —THE IDEA finds organized graft and plunder and political rottenness in Richmond.

Many high in authority are using their offices to protect crime aand criminals and in some instances are the criminals themselves.

During the coming weeks these facts, carefully obtained and sifted will be published. You certainly do not want to miss the story. Therefore be sure and subscribe to THE IDEA to-day, only $2.00 a year.

Get in the fight for your city and your State. At least keep informed as to the way the crooks and grafters are fighting against your city and your State.

If you do not get THE IDEA regularly, drop us a postal and we will see that a boy comes by your house each week.



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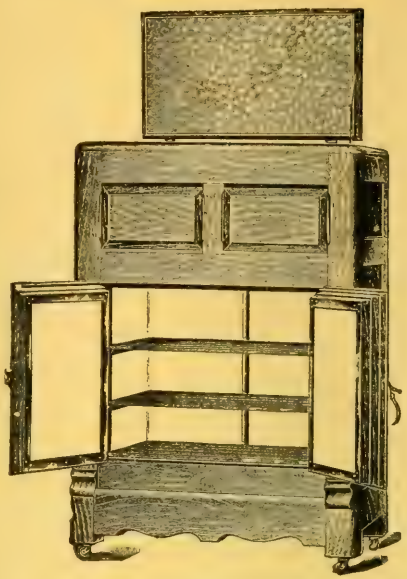
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THE IDEA

A SIGN OF THE TIMES

Vol. III Aug. 14, 1909 No. 11

$2.00 A YEAR

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THE IDEA

A Sign of the Times

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TWO BOSSES DOWN

Who Did It?

The *News-Leader,* on the day after election came out with an editorial headed "Two Bosses Down," in which they try to claim some responsibility for the defeat of Saunders and Leaman by telling the people that last October they pointed out to the people how they could get a better committee.

It seems strange to us that the *Leader,* which kept perfectly quiet all through the campaign and thus did the wish of Boss Saunders and Leaman should have the audacity to try to jump in the band wagon at this late date.

Why did not they fight against Saunders during the campaign when their columns might have helped the victory. THE IDEA does not claim all the glory for Saunders' or Leaman's defeat.

It does say though, that THE IDEA is the only paper in Richmond that dared fight against Saunders and Leaman at any time, and this fact remains, that Saunders does not regard the *Leader* as responsible.

We notice that THE IDEA is the only paper that Saunders is suing. When the ring-managed *Leader* is sued by political bosses then they may claim they have hurt the ring.

The *Journal* of the same date says that Saunders' fight for Satterfield beat him at the polls.

It looks as though if Saunders could carry Clay Ward for Satterfield he ought to be able to carry it for himself.

The trouble is these papers were tremendously surprised at the sentiment for clean government that the election showed. These papers will finally fall in line and fight too when they see the public sentiment demanding it.

THE SAUNDERS' SUIT AGAINST THE IDEA

In Todd vs. Hawkins, the judge said: "If he has used expressions however harsh, believing them to be true, he was justified in so doing, and your verdict ought to be for the defendant."

"If, however, the defendant has availed himself of the occasion for malicious purposes, he must answer for what he has done."

In another case the court says:

"If fairly warranted by any reasonable occasion or exigency and honestly made, such communications are protected for the common convenience and welfare of human society."

In all cases for libel or slander the courts have held that if the defendant used the words complained of, no matter how harsh or *even untrue* (and the IDEA's statements are all true and can be so proven) "in good faith" or "honestly" "without malice" or "in performance of a moral duty" "then the jury must find for the defendant."

Now THE IDEA has according to law not only a perfect right to publish what it has about Saunders, but it has a duty which it owes to the public to publish the truth concerning the public

acts of public officials in the defence of the people, and yet Mr. Saunders has acknowledged the weakness of his position by attempting to hurt The Williams Printing Company by his action for damages when the Williams Printing Company are not only not publishers but know nothing about what is to appear in The Idea.

They could not be held responsible for the words in The Idea, even if those words were maliciously published.

Does Mr. Saunders think that the printers, ignorant though they were of the words printed, did it in malice to Clyde Saunders. Mr. Saunders dare not say so for after the words complained of were printed he thought Mr. Williams so friendly disposed toward him as to ask him to vote for him in the primary.

No, Mr. Saunders' case in court is destined to fall through just as his case at the polls fell through on August 5th, last.

He did not get enough votes to elect then and he won't get enough votes in jury to give him any damages now. And he need not count on friends on the jury; The Idea will see to that. Beside what The Idea already had against Saunders, a large amount of the most convicting evidence has been secured and Mr. Saunders will find before he gets through with it that he'll be like a little fellow who, on a former occasion, tried to squelch The Idea. That fellow remarked to a friend he'd give $5,000.00 to get out of it.

Nothing more beneficial to the citizens of Richmond could happen than to have this thing threshed out in the courts.

Richmond is a city of churches and yet Richmond is governed by bar-rooms. They elect their man nearly every time.

MOODY VICTIM OF CROOKED POLICE METHODS

Our attention was called some time ago to the fact that officer Moody, then of the Richmond police force, had brought

down on his head the wrath of the powers that be in the force and in the board, because of his activity in law enforcement. The whiskey men were down on him as were also the court and members of the force for his raid of a notoriously bad place in the West End.

The violators of the law at Idlewood had it in for him for "pulling" that place and other special priviledged interests were against him apparently because he could not be bought.

The following important facts are worth noting:

(1.) Moody was extremely popular among a host of friends on Church Hill where he lives and is known.

(2.) Moody was extremely unpopular with the whiskey men and the law-breakers.

(3.) After his activity in the west end he was removed to the other end of town where he would not have much opportunity to detect criminals.

(4.) In the police court his work was discountenanced by Justice John.

It was therefore not altogether surprising to us when we learned that charges had been brought against the officer because threats had been against him that he would be *gotten* at the first opportunity.

About two weeks ago the papers stated that a charge of a serious nature had been made against Officers Moody and Toot. The officers were brought before the police board at a *secret* trial and were confronted with an affidavit made by a disreputable negro woman.

Meantime, however, Officer Moody had this woman summoned as a witness, and on the stand she admitted that the affidavit had been obtained through fear.

The character of the woman and her statement should have been sufficient to throw out her evidence, and the charge was based on her evidence as chief witness, but as the meeting was in secret, and as the officer was not even allowed counsel to speak for him, he, of course, could not get a square deal.

Witness was also introduced who showed that the officer, who was the other chief witness against Moody had made the threat, "We'll get you yet."

Now we write this to show that here is a specific instance

of getting rid of a man because he did attempt to enforce the law.

Moody was tried in secret and dismissed from the force. He was not allowed even to have a stenographer in the meeting to take down the evidence in his own behalf. Neither was he allowed to have a lawyer to represent him.

The papers had long stories concerning the case, which were absolutely untrue and which one of them very feebly corrected after Mr. Moody's reputation had been damaged. The papers made grave charges absolutely contrary to the evidence and which no evidence was introduced to even attempt to prove.

The evidence showed that the reports circulated by the daily papers were absolutely false. We charge that he was grossly wronged and never has been permitted either a fair show at the trial or in the method of the trial or by the press, and that these wrongs against him were because of the fact that he had gained the enmity of the criminals whose influence determined the action of the police department.

We charge that but for his unpopularity with the department he never would have been even questioned about the event on which the whole affair rested, and that he was unpopular because he was independent and had therefore gained the disfavor of the criminal law violators, who actually rule the department and protect vice and crime.

We charge that an officer of the law can not be faithful to his duty and remain on the force.

We charge that the officer who is not willing to be bribed by the saloons with drinks and favors is not only under the ban of these criminals, but is also out of favor with the powers that dominate the force because these powers are also under the domination of the criminal classes.

It's this way—the political bosses depend on the saloons to influence the purchasable vote which is much more enormous than the average man thinks. It is big enough to be worth thousands of dollars to the election crooks at each election. These saloon crooks therefore decide every close election and the officer elected is thus under obligation to the saloon and the bosses and so they dare not offend them.

Every one familiar with election methods in Richmond knows that the saloons actually control the situation here. And the good citizen looks surprised and wonders, "Is that possibly true" while the saloon man and the boss and politician is grinning as he reads this, only to frown as he thinks what publicity will do for his accursed work. It is high time that the people were examining into their own affairs and seeing how they are robbed of good men for office and when they have got a good one how he is displaced.

Marked for slaughter—Saunders, Leaman, Pollock, Mills, [redacted] and a host of others.

LEAMAN'S INFLUENCE ON POLICE BOARD

Saunders and Whiskey Votes

Chief Werner has refused not only to give Mr. Moody a copy of the proceedings of the secret trial, but has also refused to even let Mr. Moody see the proceedings to make a copy for himself, and it now appears that the evidence brought out was so damaging to others that if it were made public other officers would likely be discharged on demand of the people instead of Officer Moody.

One can see how Leaman's influence is felt in running city government when it is kown that Leaman's bar-keeper, Rex Griffin, was elected policeman at the time Moody was discharged from the force. The truth is that Leaman's man was slated as Moody's successor long before the case was framed up against Moody.

Moody, the law enforcer, is so dangerous to the criminal bar people that they, through their servant and fellow bar-keeper, Leaman, of the democratic committee and boss of the

crooked politicians, demand Moody's disgrace and removal and put a bar-tender on the force in his stead, and that too, a bar-tender, who is nothing but a puppet of Leaman's.

It seems strange that the good people of Richmond don't see what is responsible for crooked politics in Richmond. If you will look at the bottom of it you will always find the saloon. And the reason is simple. The saloon has no *right* to exist. If it had a *right* it would not stand for paying a license greater than other business. To license a thing means to *privilege* a thing which has not the *right* to exist. If it had the *right* it would not be in politics.

You never saw a grocer buying a place on the force for his clerk. The grocer knows his business has a right to exist and it does not need special protection. It is only criminal and crooked business that needs special protection and without these licensed criminals, Bosses Saunders and Leaman, would never have come into power.

Why is it that on this very day Clyde Saunders and Andy Griffith, saloon keeper and policy king, and Wirt Taylor, whiskey salesman, had their heads together.

We'll tell you why. Wirt Taylor, whiskey salesman, who has an office with Saunders is also the agent of certain interests which paid the taxes of a lot of bums and gamblers and THE IDEA has the names of these fellows whose taxes were paid with Wirt Taylor's funds through bar-keepers, who sent agents down with the gamblers and bums in question and handed over the coin and received from the men thus qualified, their receipts and took them back to the bar-keepers to show that the money had been spent according to order.

Notice this that the same people who are anxious to keep the saloon in power are responsible for all this crooked politics and the papers of Richmond. The *Journal* and the *News-Leader* and the *Times-Dispatch* know this very well, and know the details of how elections are carried for the boss politicians in Richmond by the purchasable whiskey vote and none of them have the courage to say anything about it, because they get some of the same rations that buy the poor gambler and bum. And the gambler is the better of the two every day. He's not the hypocrite that the papers of Rich-

mond are. These papers are cowards and are betraying the people into the hands of slavery to whiskey.

SAY THE IDEA DID IT

Letters From Norfolk and Richmond

It would do the people of Richmond good to read the large batches of mail we are constantly getting concerning our fight against evil here. Our space is too limited to reproduce these letters, but we print below two letters and an extract from another, all of which came in the mail this morning.

A prominent Richmond merchant writes:

Richmond, August 6, 1909.

Mr. A. A. Yoder, City:

Dear Sir: "I desire to congratulate you on the defeat of Saunders and Leaman yesterday as I am sure your Idea should have the praise. Let the good work go on. Yours for service."

A Norfolk wholesaler writes:

Norfolk, Va., 8-6, 1909.

"Congratulations on defeat of Saunders and Leaman. Fight them to a finish on the suit business, etc."

Sincerely yours.

The pastor of one of the largest and best known churches in the city writes us a long letter under the same date, Aug. 6th, which we regret we have not space to reproduce in full. From that letter we copy the following lines.

"You did it with your little hatchet. I recognize that ugly scalp hanging at your belt. The Idea is rough on grafters. Let it shoot until the last corruptionist expires. * * * I think Richmond owes you a vote of thanks. Remember the

preachers are your friend though they do not denounce so specifically as you might wish. * * *

"You are doing a kind of work that many of your well-wishers could not do, their judgment hesitating so seriously, and yet they are willing to doubt their own judgment in favor of your heroic manner of dealing with public evils. You see your duty and are bravely doing it. You are in the right direction and deserve the sympathy of all good citizens.* * *"

Cordially yours, ——— ———

We desire to thank those who are so free in their expressions of gratitude and shall do our best to live up to the big opportunity here presented us by the existence of an organized and well equipped band of public despoilers which at each new revelation baffles our belief that Richmond can really be so steeped in public vice.

If the good people of Richmond will stand by us we are sure of a great accomplishment for political righteousness in Virginia.

You'll find The Idea warm every week.

CLYDE SAUNDERS

Will He Get Back?

Let not the people rejoice over-much over the defeat of the "boss." Such an astute politician cannot be destroyed in one day. Plans are already under way to have a vacancy in both the Clay and Madison ward delegations, and for the old committee to place Leaman and Saunders back on the committee.

There is always a way for unprincipled men in power to accomplish the overthrow of the wish of the people. Eternal vigilance is the price of liberty. The people must not go to sleep. The fight is just begun. Saunders and Leaman are

not the whole ring. And if the people go to sleep thinking they have beat the ring they are doomed to a harsh awakening.

The rascals are even now forging their chains for a more lasting bondage of the people. The boss may be beaten, but lieutenants take his place and unless the rotten press of Richmond will continuously fight for clean government the situation will be as bad next year as it is now. The papers here exert, of course, a large influence, and by their policy have made it possible for Saunders and Leaman to rule with an iron hand.

They, however, and the crooked politicians, are finding that in THE IDEA they have a foe who will expose their sins and by publicity thwart their methods. We know that the papers of Richmond are working with the crooks and politicians in their almost life and death fight for the destruction of this little paper. No one but the Editor himself knows how many methods are being adopted to harrass and suppress and embarrass and bribe this paper.

It would be worth thousands of dollars to the forces of evil in Richmond led by Boss Saunders, encouraged and aided by the daily papers and financed by the poor tax payer through his patronage and permission of these bosses and subsidized papers and criminal dive keepers, to kill out THE IDEA.

Notorious crooked politicians have already threatened to kill the Editor of this paper, but we have to say that that is not as easily done as said, and that whatever they may attempt the spirit of THE IDEA will continue to push the fight until the last crook is gone and liberty shall again have a meaning in Virginia nourishing mother of those who fight against oppression.

Richmond people would like to know why it was that on election night all wards except Saunders' ward, Clay ward, were heard from early in the evening but the returns from Clay ward were held back several hours. It looks crooked to us.

As the Times-Dispatch threw on the screen the announcement that Saunders was in all probability beaten, the assembled throng rejoiced and cheered.

THE SOLUTION

The Mayor, The Legislature and The Red Light District

Whole Section Given Over to Debauching Vice and Political Corruption.

While there is a serious question as to the attitude of the law towards the social evil, there can be no question as to the duty of the executive and the police towards this question.

The Mayor has sworn to enforce the law and the law says this section shall not exist. Now many Richmonders argue that this is a necessary evil and think that the law should be changed so that the business may be regulated by law. That this whole section can be destroyed to the advantage of the city is clearly shown in the following lines:

Most newspaper readers will remember that about two years ago the city of Los Angeles resolved upon the apparently chimerical experiment of eliminating the professional bad women from its limits. Few persons expected that the venture could yield anything but failure yet it was persisted in, and the example was followed by Portland and Seattle, with strangely effective results; so that to-day there does not exist in these three cities a single bawdy house in the old sense.

Stranger yet is the fact that among all classes, even among those who were formerly the most skeptical, the change has come to be regarded as permanent, and it has passed into acceptance almost without protest. It is everywhere understood and recognized that while many of these women have been driven away or forced into other occupations, numbers remain to eke out a precarious existence on the street and in lodging

houses; but the attendant evils of the new regime, once so much dreaded—such as the scattering of them throughout the whole body of the respectable community and resultant contamination and offence in some cases—are believed to be less on the whole than the old system of seggregation with its flaunting defiance of decency, and it gradually becomes understood that the pursuit of professional wrong-doing labors under greater difficulties in this way than under the former method of police recognition, protection, graft and despicable ward politics.

They expect never again to see the day when whole sections are given over to the pursuit of degrading and debauching vice, with its ramifications of private misery and political corruption.

It is possible that a day may come when this most poisonous and disruptive of civilized vices shall be banished from the American city? In this day of moral and social progress, no one can set bounds to the triumphs that decency and honesty may yet attain. It has been the saving grace of our Anglo-Saxon civilization that honor in man and virtue in woman are two elements of character without which no other accomplishment of charm can avail; and while this basic conviction of our people has been often and persistently outraged, yet there may be coming a time when, as decency is more and more demanded in private life, so a manly and womanly control of the passions may be imperiously demanded in private life and vigorously enforced, so far as outward manifestations are concerned, by the law. Perhaps the idea that loose living can not be eliminated from municipal life is a fallacy that some day will be clearly seen and no longer tolerated.

The above was sent us by a subscriber of The Idea travelling in Indiana. It is an editorial in *"The Muncie Star,"* of August 3rd. It shows how the live Westerner is eliminating the whole red-light question. And yet you will hear Richmond men say: It is a "necessary evil."

There is no such thing as a necessary evil. The phase is a paradox. The terms are absolutely contradictory. Evils are always unnecessary.

Call murder a necessary evil?

Call robbery a necessary evil?

Certainly all these evils will exist in a sinful world, but that is no reason for the law to say to them: Kill. Steal. Commit adultery.

The only attitude of the law to any crime should be: Thou shalt not steal. Thou shalt not kill. Thou shalt not commit adultery.

If the social evil itself were not so great a moral question,—if it were a necessary evil,—still THE IDEA would fight against the way it is handled in Richmond, because it is a source of political corruption. When the public conscience has sunk so low as to permit a mayor to take the whole question in his own hands and utterly disregard the law, then the citizens ought to see that these bawdy houses have their hands in politics, they influence elections, and we openly make the charge that the mayor, as chief executive of the city, is under obligation to these dives through the police department, and this is the reason why he does not enforce the law.

The people are arousing and the storm will break over the mayor's head and he will find that he must abide by his oath of office.

Mayor Richardson. Can you not see the hand-writing on the wall, in the fall of Saunders and Leaman?

Mr. Folkes. Can't you see the hand-wrting on the wall in the triumph of the people over the Bosses?

Is it not time that public officials were arousing to their duty when the public conscience is so awake as to put down the grafters?

Richmond is awakening as can be seen by the talk of citizens everywhere. And they are going to talk more, and act some, too, before THE IDEA gives up the fight.

The existence of the Mayo street section is the cause of much of the rottenness in politics in Richmond.

Let no one compare the old Broad street section with the present Mayo street section. They were both permitted evils. The city has not attempted to enforce the law and has had no experience to go by.

If Richmond should attempt to enforce the law then she might talk with some sense about what was best.

Richmonders don't know because they have never tried.

But as an incorporated town of the State, Richmond's duty to the State is to enforce the State law. Then it can be seen whether the law is a good one and not till then.

The claim is made that it is better to have them all together.

We claim that the more you have together the more vice you will have in other sections.

There are houses of ill-fame to-day scattered all over Richmond and the police do not attempt to break them up.

They say they are regulated.

They may be regulated to some extent, but they are not segregated.

When there is a poisonous, contagious sore on the body is it wise to eradicate it entirely, or just try to keep it in one place, no matter how large a place, just so its all together.

Don't it make any difference whether it corrupts the blood and later breaks out all over the body?

The social evil here has corrupted the blood of the whole body of Richmond, and is not only making criminals and violators of oaths out of every policeman and the mayor, but is breaking out in the residence sections all over town.

If the officer of the law were not under obligations to the criminals and dive-keepers they could not only run them out of Mayo street, but they could easily keep them out of the residence sections and all other sections.

No, they want to protect them. There is where the trouble lies. And there is where THE IDEA will fight them.

The article on "Policy Shops" will appear next week as will also aritcles on gambling houses patronized by city officials. Some of the big fish will be handled with gloves off.

Next week THE IDEA will be printed in smaller type. You'll get more for your money.

Did he run, or did he slip? Did he Slide?

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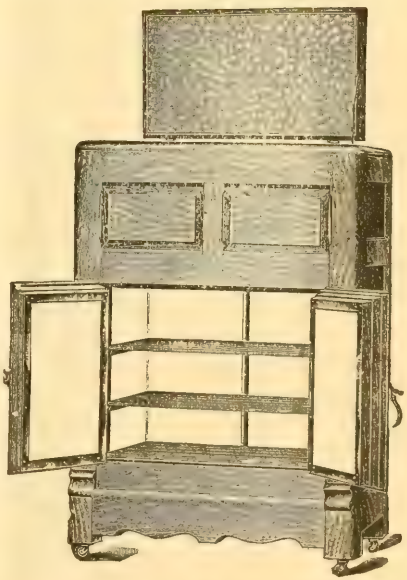
Several news stands have been added this week, a list of which will appear next week.

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Independent of all partisan affiliations, the IDEA stands for civic betterment and reform, holding that the virtues of manhood have value in themselves, while political opinions and associations, ephemeral and variable at best, when used by an office-holder's trust are misapplied and corrupted horribly to the people's hurt.

The aid of all good citizens is invoked.

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A. H. Ewing

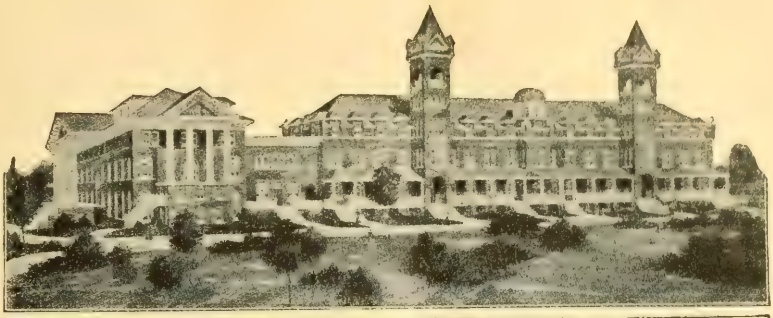
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THE IDEA

A SIGN OF THE TIMES

Vol. III Aug. 21, 1909 No. 12

$2.00 A YEAR

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AND OTHER EDITORIALS

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THE IDEA

A Sign of the Times

VOL. III AUGUST 21, 1909 NO. 12

5 CENTS A COPY $2.00 A YEAR

Published Weekly on Saturday by ADON A. YODER,
904 Capitol Street, Richmond, Va.

THE LEAMAN ASSAULT AND THE NEWS-LEADER

Evidently the daily papers of Richmond would have difficulty in recognizing the truth if met "in the big road," if one is to judge by the news items they get. It is because the truth can not be had from them that we find it advisable to give so much space to these trials in this IDEA.

The *News-Leader* of Friday, the 13th, published an article pretending to give an account of the assault of Dutch Leaman on the Editor of THE IDEA. In that article we counted six distinct and separate lies besides innumerable half lies and half truths which together made an altogether libelous and malicious mixture.

The Editor was fast running down to the *News-Leader* office to get from an employee of the *News-Leader* some copies of THE IDEA, which he had obtained under false pretenses, and was selling an hour and a half before the time which THE IDEAS were to be put on sale. Mr. Leaman stopped him and said: "Look here, I want to see you." The Editor said, "I have not time to see you now; I have to see a fellow this minute at the *Leader* office."

Leaman then grabbed Yoder by the coat and said: "I've got to see you now," and pulling a copy of THE IDEA from his pocket he said: "You write this book don't you," and as Yoder said "yes," Leaman, without asking any explanation of any statement or referring to any statement or even opening the paper, (and the Editor has never heard from Leaman yet, what statement in the paper he objected to), immediately struck at the Editor who broke from Leaman and struck Leaman in the face as he, Leaman, assaulted Yoder again. Leaman, three separate times attempted to down Yoder, and each time was repulsed.

After defending himself from Leaman and giving in self-defense more than he received, Yoder resumed his run to the *Leader* office where he arrived in time to get from that place 79 copies out of 300 taken and where he found IDEAS being sold over the counter by the *News-Leader* office man, who was making 2 cents a copy either for himself or the *News-Leader* Company.

ASSAULT CASE IN COURT

Anarchistic Proceedings

When the Leaman assault case was heard in court Saturday morning, Mr. Yoder stated to the court that since he was not desirous of prosecuting Leaman, but had sworn out the warrant in order to put Leaman under bond, because he had made threats, and since he understood that Mr. Leaman would plead guilty he would suggest to the court, that if Mr. Leaman would do so no testimony need be taken. The justice then asked Leaman if he admitted the assault and Leaman said "yes," and this plea of guilty did away with any trial and evidence and should have ended the case if there had been any regard for justice in this court.

On the question of bond, the justice said he would require $100.00 bond of each of us.

Now notice that the court had no warrant for requiring bond of the Editor because not only had no evidence been introduced in the trial, but none could be under the plea made by the prisoner. Therefore the court had no more right to require bond of Yoder than he had of any spectator in the court, because he had no judicial knowledge on which to act.

If evidence were introduced showing that Yoder had broken the peace, or if any such charge had been made, or if the charge that Yoder had made any such threats had been made, then and only then could the court legally require bond to keep the peace and Yoder so stated to the court in his objection.

Now Leaman's case had been settled by his plea of guilty and yet the court permitted Leaman to deliver a tirade of abuse and invective against Yoder after this, and after the Editor made objection to it and after the court had temporarily stopped him twice on objection of the Editor.

The court showed it had no respect for, or absolutely no knowledge of justice and legal procedure, by letting Mr. Leaman take the time of and interrupt the proceedings of the court by insults and threats.

Leaman stated in court that he not only made threats, but that he would reiterate them and even went so far as to state to the court that he was going to get Yoder and said, "Yes, and there is going to be shedding of blood, too."

The Editor then said, "You see, he makes threats and I make none and I object to your requirement of bond and will take an appeal."

Then an officer of the court said to Leaman, "You take an appeal, too," and Leaman took an appeal.

Now the peculiar legal procedure is again seen when Squire Graves, after noting the appeal to come up in October, required the Editor to give bond anyhow.

We want to know what the appeal from bond amounts to anyhow, if one has to give bond after taking the appeal.

As we left the court after this farce of a trial spectators were indignant and said that Leaman had been allowed the

liberty of the court in abusing the Editor in the hope that the Editor would do something for which he could be fined for contempt of court. And this had come to our ears often before the trial that an attempt would be made in court to do this. If there has ever been more flagrant contempt of court than Leaman's act yesterday, we have failed to hear of it. We would have to have utmost contempt both for the court and for ourselves to ever speak as Leaman did.

The Virginia Statute on contempt makes a man guilty for contempt of court who uses such language "in the presence of the court." He don't have to address insults to the court.

Yet Leaman can be guilty of infracting the law before Squire Graves and go scot free.

Most everybody in Richmond thinks he knows what the squire would have done if the Editor of THE IDEA had been guilty of contempt of court.

REX GRIFFIN ASSAULTS THE EDITOR OF THE IDEA

On Friday, a few minutes after the unsuccessful attempt on the part of Leaman to harm A. A. Yoder, Rex Griffin, Leaman's former bar-keeper appeared at THE IDEA office and quietly asked for Mr. Yoder and stated to the Editor that he was wrong in stating that he, Griffin, was elected to succeed Moody at the time of Moody's dismissal as he did not have Moody's beat and was elected about two weeks from the time of Moody's dismissal.

He was told that we were very sorry if we had made a mistake and that we would look it up at the first opportunity and make the correction for we had no desire to make any statements which were not true. He stated further that he simply desired to have the facts as they were. He then asked what the word "puppet" meant, which we explained to him as meaning a "tool." His conversation was quiet and orderly and

we talked cordially to him for a minute or so. Though the Editor and the clerk in the office both smelled whiskey very strong on him he was not threatening and he did not demand anything, though we very gladly told him we would correct any errors made.

Griffin then departed and we thought the matter settled until the next regular issue appeared when we would be ready to correct any errors.

Saturday and Friday being days of sale, are our busiest days and we thought no more of the matter until Saturday night at 8 o'clock when the Editor was standing alone in front of his office, and Griffin walked quietly up and after looking into the office which was empty he asked if we had "asked the chief about that matter I was talking to you about yesterday." We had not heard of the chief in this connection before, but knowing what he meant, we said, "No, I've been so busy since yesterday with my sales that I have not had time to even think of anything else." No further remark was made by either of us and the Editor was not looking at Griffin, because he did not expect any violence and knew of no occasion for any one to take an offence at the statements referred to, even if they had been errors. Suddenly, and with no warning and not even seeing Griffin, who was standing in the shadows at his right, the Editor was struck a stunning blow in the face which felled him. Then Griffin, who weighs apparently 200 pounds, jumped on the Editor, and rained blow after blow upon him and kicked him in the face as he struggled beneath him until they were separated.

When the brother of the Editor, who was eating supper at the hotel, next door, arrived and tried to pull Griffin off, some powerful fellow, apparently an accomplice of Griffin, grabbed him and pulled him into the street, and it was some time after a crowd arrived before Yoder was released from his powerful antagonist. A pistol that Griffin had, No. 96, and which he dropped in the scuffle, was handed by Yoder over to an officer and Policeman Goldsby took charge of it.

No police was to be found at the time of the murderous assault and Griffin disappeared in the throng which gathered.

After Yoder had gone to his hotel policemen arrived and later the chief himself who seemed very considerate.

The *Times-Dispatch*, in their bungled account of the affair, very ironically remarked that after the affair was over the police arrived and "every protection was thrown about the man attacked," as if the Editor needed protection after the assailant had slipped away. Does the *Times-Dispatch* mean to acknowledge that it knew of a conspiracy to continue the affair when Griffin was stopped.

It looks like there was such a conspiracy. Dutch Leaman was seen walking by a very few minutes before the assault was made and unknown men arose out of the dark in time to stop any protection of Yoder by his friends.

Have you noticed that the papers seem to be in so absolute fear that they will help the good cause along by advertising THE IDEA, that they do not dare to even mention the name of this magazine in writing up sensational stuff concerning us.

Poor, little frightened papers. Has THE IDEA hurt their sales or has it also hurt their revenues from questionable sources by exposing wrong doing in the political life of Richmond which they labor so hard to cover up.

THE GRIFFIN ASSAULT CASE IN COURT

In the police court Monday morning, Officer Griffin plead guilty and there was thus no evidence introduced to show the gravity of the charge.

Attorney Sands appeared for Griffin and although Griffin had already plead guilty and the assault case was thus settled, still Sands took it on himself to make slanderous charges against THE IDEA which had no bearing on the case, and after the Editor objected to his insulting remarks and insisted that the court require him to confine himself to the case he desisted

The court fined Griffin $25.00 and put him under bond for $500.00 for one year to keep the peace and the trial was over.

The Editor was astounded later in the day to find from the papers that this bond had been removed "as Griffin is under bond as a police officer."

Now the Editor is not one to seek vengeance and he did not prosecute Griffin, but swore out the warrant for his arrest as a protective measure, because the police who arrived long after the assault showed no inclination to arrest Griffin of their own initiative, but one of them stated that it would be necessary for the Editor to swear out a warrant in order to have him arrested and one of these officers secured a justice of the peace before whom the warrant was sworn out. The object, of course, was to protect from further assault by requiring bond of Griffin.

This bond which was required was remitted on the flimsy excuse offered that he was already under bond, whereas that bond stood legally forfeited when he committed the assault. The action of the court simply says to the criminal that an assailant may take a gun, as an officer of the law, though he be under heavy bond, sworn to keep the peace at all times and protect and defend the law, and go and make an assault and not even forfeit that bond.

The police board has sanctioned that stand and refused to require the officer to forfeit his bond.

If such anarchy is permitted to run Richmond, violence may be resorted to to right any supposed wrongs.

The *Leader* accounts, as usual, had the things all bungled up. In one place the *Leader* article stated that Griffin was charged with assaulting Yoder on Capitol street. Later in the same article this appears: "The attack took place on Broad street near 9th." Neither statement is true, as Griffin assaulted Yoder on the premises of Yoder near the door of his office.

The lad who lassoes an idea and hog ties it, is the only one who really counts.—Hubbard.

POLICE BOARD TRIAL

Monday, August 16th, the Editor had the Saunders' case to answer to in the Law and Equity Court and the Griffin case in the police court and then received a summons to appear as a witness in the case of the chief against Griffin before the police board, who had been suspended by Werner for the assault.

The Editor answered that summons and appeared before that board.

A chair was placed toward the centre of the room for him and the other party called as a witness, viz., the chief, was directed to a seat against the wall as well as was Griffin, against whom the charge was brought.

The *Times-Dispatch* said this morning that "Yoder was invited into the meeting of the board and he was permitted to ask questions."

The fact is, Yoder was duly summoned by legal process to appear before this secret farce or he never would have attended. He is not going about begging a secret police board to prosecute a man. If he has any prosecuting to do it will be by legal and open methods.

On the other hand Yoder was summoned and it very soon appeared that the object of the game was to quis and try Yoder for libel for the three commissioners who asked 95 per cent. of all the questions asked showed by their questions that their object was to justify Griffin as they finally did do, and to even attempt by continued cross-questioning of the Editor to force the Editor by confusing him to make him entangle himself so that they would have some ground for suggesting that he humiliate himself before them in explaining and apologizing.

The Editor had to frequently call the presiding officer's attention to the unheard-of and uncalled-for and improper procedure and frequently refused to go into a discussion of the motives of and methods of The Idea which had absolutely no bearing on the case.

In every one of his refusals and objections the Mayor sus-

tained him and the case proceeded only to find other impertinent questions objected to.

The Editor had even to go so far as to tell the board, "I am not on trial before you; if you want me tried there is a proper court, but I refuse to answer and object to being asked, because I do not like to appear to be discourteous, questions which have no bearing whatever on the charge against Griffin for which I was summoned here," and "I call your attention to the fact that from the proceedings I, and not Griffin, am on trial."

During the questioning of Griffin he stated that Mr. Leaman was so active in supporting him for the force that this activity was reported to be the reason he was not at first appointed. We take it that he was not so active at the time of Griffin's appointment, but in view of these admissions, who can doubt for a moment the truth of THE IDEA'S main contention, namely, that Leaman's influence put Leaman's barkeeper on the police force of Richmond, when Leaman was so recognized a factor in things political in Richmond, that the papers which have refused to join the fight against political corruption here refer to him as Boss Leaman.

Further. At least three times as many questions were put to the Editor as were put to the prisoner in this secret, night star chamber immitation of a court.

Attention should be called to the fact that this trial court is composed of seven men who are not lawyers, and from their proceedings, don't know the first principals of legal procedure. The members who kept quiet may have known, but it appeared that those who did the talking were either ignorant of, or had no care for, recognized bounds and limits which should confine them to the case on trial.

To us the whole business seemed to be an attempt to protect, rather than prosecute Griffin, and the result verifies our conjecture.

To attempt a complete notice of the trial would be out of the question, for it alone would fill THE IDEA, but to show the way they got away from the question and their lack of desire for the truth of the assault, let it be known that no question was asked the Editor as to how many blows he was struck, still

when they had finished questioning, and when Griffin was testifying, he, the assailant, was asked how many blows he struck, and he replied, "five or six."

They did not ask for and did not get the facts of the assault and if they had wanted the whole truth, could easily have gotten other witnesses, whose names they were aware of, because the officers were told all about it.

Now the minor question comes up which Griffin claimed he desired to have properly set forth, but which on trial in the board he denied was the cause of the assault.

Let's quote THE IDEA article in question. It reads:

"One can see how Leaman's influence is felt in running city government when it is known that Leaman's bar-keeper, Rex Griffin, was elected policeman at the time Moody was discharged from the force. The truth is that Leaman's man was slated as Moody's successor long before the case was framed up against Moody."

In the newspaper account of the matter, both in the *Times-Dispatch* and the *Leader,* we find the board showed they knew not what they were about by using the following words: "The publication which was false, inasmuch as it charged that you had framed up a case to get Officer Moody discharged and yourself appointed."

THE IDEA resents this gross misstatement and calls attention to the real publication which we have quoted above.

Let the reader consider the facts and then consider the findings of the board and draw his own conclusion, as to whether the board was indicting Griffin or THE IDEA, and whether they told the truth or not.

Members of the board took occasion last night in the trial to bring out that Griffin was not elected *exactly* at the time, but two weeks or so before the discharge of Moody, and therefore did not succeed Moody.

Although we were so careful to get at the facts in the first case as to ask four policemen about this before going to print and three out of the four told us that Moody was succeeded by Griffin, still, since the board now informs us of the error, it gives us pleasure to have the privilege of correcting this as we have no desire to misrepresent any one.

THE IDEA desires to state that although Leaman made threats against Yoder openly in court and Leaman's character was known to the police, still no police protection was offered anywhere near Yoder's office, and police were so far away that no one appeared in time to offer any protection or even summon any witnesses. A list of witnesses was sent to police headquarters on Sunday, but the police did not summons them to court, and appeared all through the affair not to desire to do anything to get the facts in the case before the public or the court and they never have either been examined by the court or appeared in the papers.

PROTEST AGAINST ACTION OF POLICE BOARD.

Richmond, Va., Aug. 16, 1909.

We, the members of the board of stewards of Clay-Street Methodist Episcopal church, in regular meeting, wish to enter our protest and express our indignation at the action of Policeman Griffin in taking the law in his own hands in dealing out summary punishment to A. A. Yoder, a citizen of Richmond, for an insult, whether real or imaginary.

That we enter our solemn protest against the light punishment meted out to him in the police court, and claim that he has demonstrated clearly his unfitness as an officer of the law, and we think it the duty of the board of police commissioners to at once dismiss him from the police force.

That we consider his action an affront to the respectable element of our community.

Adopted by unanimous vote of the board.

F. I. BAUGHN, Recording Secretary."

PEACE BOND

When Squire Graves placed Leaman under bond on request of Yoder, who preferred charges and had them sustained in court by a plea of guilty, Officer Graves overstepped the

bounds of common sense and law by also requiring bond of the Editor, who objected to his decision and took an appeal from it because no evidence had been introduced to show that the peace had been broken or would be broken by him.

The law is as follows: Sec. 3920. "If a person in the presence of the court or a conservator of the peace make an affray, or threaten to kill or beat another or to commit violence against his person or property, or contend with angry words to the disturbance of the peace, he may, without process or further proof, be required to give a recognizance."

Thus it will be seen that it becomes the duty of the judge not only to require bond of Leaman but the law also demands that before he could require bond of Yoder, Yoder must "make an affray," or "contend," or "threat" "in the presence of the court" or else, (see Sec. 2913) "complaint must be made" and "warrant must be issued" and "witnesses must be examined" to substantiate the charge. None of these things were done in Yoder's case therefore he could not legally be required to give peace bond.

We told him that he had no warrant in law for putting us under bond.

He cannot, therefore, plead ignorance.

Note these facts, (1) that J. R. Gordon, father of Police Commissioner Gordon, went Griffin's bail.

(2) That Chris. Manning, Police Commissioner, went Leaman's bail.

(3) That Commissioners Gordon and Lauderkin were in communication with Sands, attorney for Griffin at the trial of Griffin in the police court.

POLICY SHOPS

The papers of last week tell of the raid on the policy shops made by the police and the *Times-Dispatch* even dares to claim that they did it by investigating this business a year and a half ago.

The *Dispatch* must think the public are all fools to suggest that this was done because of a little publicity a year or two ago.

If you ask Chief Werner why the raid was made and if he will give you a fair answer, he'll tell you he did not like the way THE IDEA not only exposed the policy shops but exposed his and the department's crime in protecting them. The police department don't have to be told where the policy shops are. They know better than THE IDEA or the Dispatch where they are for they protect this crime just as they do the social evil. All manner of crimes are protected in Richmond and the police board are not bothered much by an exposition of the crimes just so the blame is not fixed when it belongs on them. The policeman would put the policy shop out in a jiffy but he can't do it; the courts and the board won't let him.

As a prominent Richmonder said recently, he knew of no city in which the forces of evil were so thoroughly entrenched and protected as in Richmond. If the people of Richmond would look into the past lives of some of their prominent, slick politicians and see from what base sources they sprang, from what degraded occupations they came to their present seats of power and corruption, they would not wonder at the attitude of protection of vice which these crooked officials maintain.

Did you ever enquire how many ex-barkeepers and gamblers there are now in power in Richmond politics. If you have not it would pay you to ask some questions about the antecedents and former lives of those who run Richmond.

If the police desired to break up the policy games why did they tackle a poor negro for it when they knew where the seat of all the trouble was? Why did they simply skirmish and let the rascals off? Why did they not go after the center of the trouble? And THE IDEA answers "They don't want to, but we'll make 'em want to." Why did they not get Griffith? Because of Saunders.

In the fight for good government we need and earnestly ask the co-operation and tangible support of the good citizens of Richmond. Everything possible is being done by the forces

of evil to tax the limited resources of the publisher and if it were his fight alone he would do his best and say nothing to others along this line.

Others have been persecuted for the right before and he expected just what has happened and looks for more because of the desperate straits of the malefactors exposed, and because he cannot expect police protection. Their fight, however, is not simply against the editor, but is against the turning on the light, is against the good of Richmond. Organized evil is fighting unorganized good. In the contest of the people against the grafters will you lend your aid or do you care whether The Idea goes down and the grafters gain a better hold on your throats.

Tuesday afternoon.—The *Leader,* just out, for to-day, has what purports to be an interview with a police commissioner which is so at variance with the truth that we make the following statement.

Not only did no conversation pass between Griffin and Yoder on Saturday in reference to the word puppet, but Griffin did not even claim in his testimony before the board that such conversation occurred.

The article in question contained no foundation in facts and we would insist on a corrected account at the hands of the *Leader* were it not for the fact that so few people believe what they see in the Richmond daily papers.

POLICE PROTECTION

When The Idea began publication it was an exceedingly rare thing to see a policeman anywhere near that office. Soon after a policeman could be found almost continually standing immediately in front of The Idea office on the opposite side of the street carefully scrutinizing all who came to The Idea office. After threats of violence were made against the editor it was noticed that this special police protection had been with-

drawn and although threats of bloodshed had been angrily made in open court, still when on two separate occasions vicious assaults were made on the editor, one on his own premises and another near them, no policeman was near and no officer of the law did anything to apprehend the offender.

WHO'S TO BLAME AND THE REMEDY

The good citizens of Richmond seem surprised at the way the authorities have practically sanctioned violence and lawbreaking even on the part of officers sworn to enforce the law. The Idea is not at all surprised as such procedure is exactly in keeping with the practice in the past.

Then too, it must be remembered that the article of which Griffin and Leaman complained was more a censure of those in authority than it was of Griffin and Leaman and that these two were practically fighting the fight of the police board when they attacked the editor. They could not be expected to turn against their friends. The attitude of friendship of the authorities toward these two is remarked on by all familiar with the farces called trials which Richmond has recently been disgraced with.

We wonder how long it will be before the people of Richmond really appreciate the depths of corruption to which their departments of justice and law enforcement have descended.

These things are not new experience here. Abuses of justice just as flagrant as these are frequently happening but the people have not been acquainted with the facts.

It is high time that Richmond people noted as a church-going and benevolent people, were arising in their might and throwing off not only the corrupt and crooked politicians and grafters but also the ancient and outworn form of city government which makes such abuses so easy of accomplishment.

Government by a small commission of paid specialists is the solution for other cities, why not for Richmond?

Meantime, let Richmond men organize a law-and-order league which shall see to it that the present laws are enforced and correct the gross abuses which so openly exist in our midst to the shame and disgrace of all good citizens and to the sorrow and suffering of the poor and the weak and those so unfortunate as to come within the reach of those in authority.

We wish to commend the *News-Leader* of Monday for the editorial stand they take against the action of the police board in permitting one who commits an assault and breaks the peace to represent the people as a preserver of the peace sworn at all times to keep the peace. It is hoped that this editorial attitude for fair play will permeate the other department of the paper and make of it what Richmond so much needs, a square and fair daily newspaper.

It will be an experiment worth trying in Richmond and one which we believe would surprise the experimenters by the approval it would receive.

Do the people of Richmond really want to see Richmond rid of its ring of grafters?

Do they want to see THE IDEA continue the work of exposing wrong. Are they willing to see the grafters succeed in this attempt to break up THE IDEA by making it use all its resources and place itself in debt by defending itself in courts.

This is the plan of campaign of the enemy. Their only hope is in breaking THE IDEA or killing the editor.

If the people of Richmond want THE IDEA to continue let them insist on the protection which cities everywhere else in Virginia guarantee even to a criminal, and let them also come to the rescue and fight the grafters to the last quarter.

THE IDEA now has sufficient circulation to guarantee its existence provided it is not broken by legal fees.

We are frank to confess that if we have to bear all the expense of lawyers which the enemy promises to make us we do not think we can stand.

If you want THE IDEA to continue your fight, say so and act accordingly. If you want THE IDEA to stop; if you are

satisfied to let the grafters run the city; if you want to permit injustice to afflict the unfortunate; if you desire to keep thugs and criminals protected and innocents persecuted by and in the name of your government then THE IDEA does not desire to offend by continuing the fight. What do you want, gentlemen of Richmond? We do not want to appear as usurpers. It is up to the manhood of Richmond to decide for whether they want to or not a time of decision has come.

A NEW DAILY FOR RICHMOND

Since starting THE IDEA many letters have been received urging that an independent fearless daily paper be started here. The management of THE IDEA will not enter that field for many good reasons, but THE IDEA is greatly pleased to learn from the very best authority that large financial interests are planning to start a State Republican daily paper in Richmond.

Now THE IDEA, though edited by one who votes the Democratic ticket, is an independent paper and it is more interested in seeing clean politics than in seeing Democratic politics in control in Virginia. For the sake therefore of clean Democratic affairs we rejoice over the prospect of an opposition paper and we trust and believe that the great body of Democratic people of Richmond will give the new paper when it comes, the hearty support it deserves.

Democrats can not be freed from the rotten, political ring which dominates them until the light is turned on by an opposition press and until they are compelled to believe what THE IDEA is weekly telling them that Virginia political affairs and especially Richmond political affairs, are in the hands of as corrupt and rotten a ring as ever dominated a State or a community.

And now they say there is graft in buying plug horses for policemen. It looks like the police department is rotten from center to circumference and is the most corrupt thing in Richmond, and that is saying a whole lot.

EX-MAYOR McCARTHY ON THE CITY COMMITTEE.

Nobody has yet discovered why it is that ten or twelve men, whose individual opinions and character have no weight whatever with anybody, can get together in a political committee and become a center of wisdom and influence and sway the destiny of a community.

It is simply amazing what insignificant fellows do their own good pleasure with the helpless voters.

Two great parties govern the country and are in turn themselves governed by a few professional politicians.

The above lines appear in Captain McCarthy's book, "Our Distinguished Fellow Citizen."

He also makes the following remarks:

"It is a strange fact that the bar-rooms and liquor interests of nearly all, if not all the large cities of this country, exert more influence in determining nominations and elections than all the churches of all the denominations combined."

"Almost anybody will believe a thoroughly agreeable lie."

"There were chairs in the room evidently made to sit in."

"The prisoner remarked on his way back to jail, that he might be hanged, but it was some consolation to know that he had been to the police court for the last time."

"Good and evil mixed is pure evil. Virtue never compromises; if it does it is no longer virtue, but vice."

"The science of compromise is the devil's specialty."

The above quotations were selected at random after hurriedly reading "Our Distinguished Fellow Citizen."

The book was sent us by the publishers from Harrisonburg with request for advertising rates.

We read the book at one sitting—it was so intensely interesting,—and we take pleasure in adding this comment in the hope that Richmond citizens who want to know how the city is run may be directed to one who knows more than any man in Virginia about municipal affairs.

Read the publisher's ad. on back of cover.

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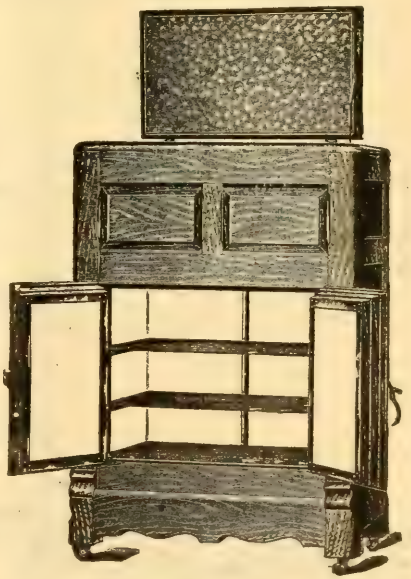
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THE IDEA

A Sign of the Times

VOL. III AUGUST 28, 1909 No. 13

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SQUIRE GRAVES

And Crooked Methods in the Police Court

The daily papers last week stated that the bond of $500 which the court required of policeman Griffin, had been remitted, on account of the fact that he was already under bond.

It is true, he was already under bond, but it is also true that that bond amounted to nothing, because the police commissioner did not require him to forfeit that bond.

Justice Graves did impose a bond of $500, and the records do not show that it was remitted.

THE IDEA reporter who went to see about this on Thursday, three days after bond was ordered, found that Griffin had walked off without giving bond, and the officer in charge stated to the reporter that nothing had been done to see that Griffin did furnish bond.

Squire Graves appeared at this juncture, and the clerk told him that Griffin had not filed bond, and he then ordered that Griffin be sent for.

This proves that the officers of the court were in sympathy with Griffin, and deliberately let him walk off without furnishing bond. They were extremely careful to require $100 bond of the editor when he was assaulted; and yet when a sworn officer assaults the editor, he not only does not forfeit the bond he is already under, but he walks off without putting up bond for the future.

If this is not rotten, what is it? Some day, perhaps, the good people of Richmond will wake up to a realization of how bold their public servants are in encouraging the violation of the law. If they treat the violators of the law in this way can any justice be expected of them.

Let a confessed criminal off from a $500 bond and impose a $100 bond on one against whom no charge has ever been made.

It's up to the voters of Richmond to put clean men in office in the Council, and at the first opportunity, get a form of government which does away with this outlandish councilmanic system.

It is the Council which elects the police board, which is so loosely and corruptly run as to permit all these injustices.

Let this be known that the Council elects, and it is generally the case that the ring crowd in the Council, run by Pollock and Mills and their gang, nearly always have their way in electing police commissioners, as they did recently in electing McCarthy, for whose election Pollock led the fight which was so desperate that Pollock could not contain himself when it was over and lost himself in oaths in the Council chamber.

Pollock knew how much his influence in police court depended on the election of his man, and he clearly showed it.

And yet intelligent Richmond people permit men like Pollock to largely run the city, both in the Council and the police court.

And the papers are to blame, because they would not turn on the light.

If you don't like The Idea, read the *Times-Dispatch* or the *News-Leader*. They won't hurt you.

LATER

The Idea man has again called on the police court to find whether Griffin furnished bond or not, and behold what he found:

Opposite Griffin's name on the docket is found an entry showing that at last, W. E. Griggs appeared as his bondsman, and on looking to see who Griggs is, the directory discloses that W. E. Griggs is a justice of the peace, with headquarters at Room 18, basement City Hall, which Room 18, is the police court. So it seems that the wheel within a wheel discloses itself.

The ring grows!

A police commissioner's father bails Griffin. Police commissioners counsel his defence in the police court. The Board then defends him and excuses his acts and encourages lawlessness by putting him back to work with a farce of a fine. The police court lets him walk off without giving bond. And last, when they find The Idea looking into their crooked work, a justice of the peace and side partner of the court goes his bond. Ye angels and little fishes, behold the workings of the ring in protecting and defending crime. This little incident ought to show how Richmond is run. Will the people wake up. We rather think they will.

The article below is clipped from a pamphlet put out by Mr.———— Maxwell, who was shamefully treated by this same Squire Graves. We publish it to show over how long a time this injustice to citizens has extended.

Maxwell was unlawfully handled by city officials on Christmas, 1907, and Graves is still doing business at the old stand.

"YOU MAY NOT KNOW THIS MAN GRAVES."

Now let me tell you the position he occupies. I have seen him taking up tickets at the Academy of Music, and at the Base Ball grounds; a gate-keeper, or ticket-taker at the Fair grounds. Now, this is the man that put me under bond

to keep the peace when there was no evidence that I had disturbed the peace of anybody. Now, I have been in this community for sixteen months, and I ask the public if I have injured or tried to injure anybody, or if I have violated the peace of the community I have lived in; if not, then I ask the public, why I was put under bond to keep the peace and sent to jail on the 24th and remained there until the 26th. Think of this Christmas Day, a man like I tell you I am, to be sent to jail by a man of the appearance and in the position of Graves.

THE SAUNDERS' SUIT

Extract From the Declaration Filed by Clyde Saunders

"By reason of the said premises, divers residents of the ward aforesaid, in which the said plaintiff resides, have refused to support him in his candidacy aforesaid, and did not vote for him at the election aforesaid, held on the said 5th of August, 1909, as they would otherwise have done. And also by means of the premises aforesaid, the said plaintiff has been and is greatly injured and damnified to the damages of the said plaintiff, twenty thousand dollars."

If it's a crime in Virginia to beat a political boss at the polls, then we must be guilty.

Either city employees or city contractors or both have been robbing Richmond and in justice both to the citizens and the contractors and the employees, the public should know and very quickly, all the facts in the case. The chances are that the daily papers will let the thing die just as soon as they find out who the rascals are, and before they let people on to their valuable secret.

Morgan Mills' Committee

Show the Letter

Who Gets the Rebates, and Are There Others?

It now develops that the Water Committee has been up to secret work and entered into agreements which have never been made public. It appears that that committee, of which Morgan Mills is chairman, awarded a contract to a bidder at $14,550, although there was a lower bid.

It is important to notice that the city never gets any rebates, and it appears that nothing is heard of it until the rebate is refused.

It is pertinent to ask who would have gotten the rebate if it had been received?

This rebate matter may explain why these pumps were installed a year before there was ever power enough to run them.

As this was the business of the public, the public should have been informed of any transaction made in their name. No committee has any legal or moral right to take any secret action, especially when such action involves the public's money.

Why was not this $1,000 rebate mentioned in the minutes?

When public matters are concealed, the public has a right to suspect something crooked.

It is also pertinent to ask if there was any secret rebate offered in the other electric contract recently awarded to the General Electric Co.

If there was a rebate, how much was it, and why did not the people know about it?

There ought to be a rebate somewhere to make up for the difference of about $8,300 between that and the lower bid of the Westinghouse Co.

All the people know is that when the rebate is refused,

the city don't get it. They don't know that the grafters don't get secret rebates; yet there are a lot of people in Richmond who say they know that the grafters here do get secret rebates, but they will not go before a grand jury and say so, because of fear of the grafters.

Let this same council committee, with Mr. Mills as chairman, state to the people, their masters, whether there are any other secrets of the people which they refuse to let the people know of. The trouble is that these servants of the people think themselves masters of the people, and they have so arranged the important contracting committees that there are always enough of the ring on them to decide what action shall be taken, and thus bind the tongues of the good men on the committees.

Let this committee produce this rebate letter and place it before the public. It's the public property.

We have been delaying the publication of two important and highly interesting articles concerning two of the grafters, in order to get a few more details which bear on the subject. We expect to have one or both of these articles ready for next week. Don't miss it.

A PARABLE AND THE IDEA.

A story is going the rounds that in the church of a good pastor, there was a certain good brother deacon who always contributed liberally and even led in prayer when called on, but who could never be persuaded to do any "personal work" in the way of talking to others concerning their future well being.

In the course of events, however, the church found itself in the midst of revival services, and the pastor urged and urged his good deacon to help on the work by personally appealing to some of the young men of the congregation.

Finally the deacon summed up courage enough to make the attempt, and arising from his seat, he went over to the seat of a pretty wild young acquaintance, and engaged him in conversation with these words: "James, don't you want

to go to heaven?" James replied, "No." The deacon said, "Go to hell, then," and quietly resumed his seat.

Later on in the meeting James did some thinking and finally took the decisive step and went forward to shake the preachers' hand and unite himself with the church.

The pastor, of course, wanted to know his experience, and said, "James, how did you come to take this stand?"

James' reply was: "Old Deacon So-So told me to go to h—l, and it got me to studying."

Some of the friends of the work of THE IDEA have expressed the opinion that our work would be more effective if we cut out all the harsh terms and state the facts, but eliminate the sting.

Our reply is that that is just what is troubling the daily papers of Richmond to-day. They have cut out the harsh terms and smoothed things down so that their papers amount to nothing as organs of right. If THE IDEA were to cut out the blows which it is aiming at evil, by toning it down, then it would not be THE IDEA; and moreover, it would not amount to any more than the daily papers here. It would just be a non-entity. Did you ever think why people read THE IDEA? It's because THE IDEA calls a spade a spade, and THE IDEA is going to keep on calling spades by name, and moreover, there are still some spades in Richmond which are shovelling dirt under other names, and it remains for THE IDEA to denominate them and put them up to the public gaze.

THE IDEA'S method of telling the truth forcefully by not concealing anything is the only method yet found for effectually fighting evil. When you are after crooks you don't gain anything by calling them angels. You've got to call 'em crooks and then let 'em know you are going to keep on exposing them until they take to the tall timber. The grafters in Richmond are so entrenched that they can not be moved by mealy-mouthed words of entreaty. You've got to tell 'em to go to H—l, and then give 'em a kick in that direction. Note this, that the daily papers of Richmond never yet put a rascal on the run, but remember that THE IDEA has already beat two bosses and puts crimps in the plans of a score more that will, at the first opportunity, send them to the brush pile of politics.

The Idea is not here to emit pleasant terms for the delectation of the grafters. We are here to put the grafters out of commission and the only way to do it is to call 'em by name and strike blows that tell.

You know Jesus of Nazareth did not mince matters when he was after the offenders. He not only called them vipers and foxes and whitened sepulchres, but he went after them with his whip and put them to rout with physical force. Let no modern man try to improve on the methods of the Master. It matters not if they finally killed him. When the rascals try to kill it's the greatest compliment evil can pay to good, and it must be sweet to die in battle for the right.

We often think that the reason preachers don't more often find the same violence Jesus found is that they attempt to do His will without doing it His way.

If you would follow Jesus you'll find you'll have a fight on your hands just as he did. The servant is not greater than his master.

GRAIN GRAFT

During the past week it has developed that the city has been systematically robbed of perhaps thousands of dollars either by city employees or else by those furnishing grain to the city, and yet the daily papers of Richmond seem so determined to cover up anything scandalous about respectable people that they all make light of the offence. The *Journal* says "there may be graft." The *Leader* says "Graft of $3.50," while in the same article it quotes the city engineer as saying that they were informed that this was done "on several occasions," which clearly shows that the *News-Leader* is trying to minimize the crime and thus protect the real criminals, and it is worth while to state right here that it is this well known policy of suppressing news on the part of the Richmond papers that not only makes it so hard to fight graft when it is discovered, but makes the grafters see that they can engage in their grafting

without fear of being caught and punished, for all know that no grafters are punished until the people are aroused through the public press to see where they are being robbed.

These papers know as well as they know their names that the citizens of Richmond have been systematically robbed and that somebody should be sent to the pen for it, and yet they so becloud the facts with misleading headlines that they make the people believe that a negro driver has simply stolen $3.50 from the city.

It is also worth noting by the citizens that those whose duty it is to guard such things have been woefully negligent. It can easily be seen that no private corporation would be so lax as to let such a thing occur.

No city official seems to have checked up purchases enough to notice whether the oats bought ever weighed too light.

This much is dead sure, that it could be easily ascertained from the known approximate weight of oats whenever any steal as much as three or four dollars from one load of oats was going on. If we get no more from this investigation which seems to be so laxly and loosely conducted as to let the real criminals cover up their tracks, we should at least learn that our present form of government, with no one man responsible for grain purchases from deciding who the city buys from to the checkng up of the delivery of the same, is a mammoth failure and that graft and crookedness will continue to thrive and the people will never know how much they are robbed until we institute some business-like management of city affairs.

Instead of running like a railroad company is run, and putting an individual in control of the purchase of supplies, what do we do? We elect fifty-six men and get them to be our purchasing agent.

When will we ever get over our fool notion of doing things as a city that we have too much sense to do as individuals or private corporations? When will we get over hiring fifty-six men, aldermen, councils and committees and sub-committees to do what we ought to hold one man responsible for doing?

Those cities that are running on modern common sense lines and doing their business in decency and in order, are

waking up to a realization that they are saving hundreds of thousands of dollars each year.

And if you want to know where they save it we'll simply have to answer that they simply cut out the grafter.

It is safe to say that one-fourth of the million and a half dollars that Richmond spends each year is graft money, and yet we are such a conservative and hopeful and unsuspicious people, and have been kept in ignorance so long by the suppression of news on the part of the papers that we never will be waked up until some fine day we find from an investigation that dear, beautiful old Richmond is politically as rotten and corrupt as San Francisco, or Pittsburgh, or New York ever dared to be.

Fifty-six men giving (?) their time to the city and yet contending for influential committee appointments because those appointments give them *money,* hard and long green money, and are more valuable and much more to be desired than salaried positions, and the citizens patting themselves on the back and saying (some of them): "Richmond is a clean city." Richmond is indeed a city far above the average, and away at the top in intelligence and education of her citizens and in interest in political matters, and yet it would be hard to find a community so oppressed by papers which the citizens sometimes *suspect* are giving them the *news* about their government. If Richmond had a single daily newspaper that would turn on the light and would not suppress news, Richmond citizens would in no short time rid itself of its band of boodlers, and grafters, and crooks, and put itself where it ought to be, and deserves to be, the best governed city in the Union. Trouble is the *Times-Dispatch,* with its allies, is indeed "Supreme" in Richmond, and the people are enslaved to its supremacy.

The daily papers are acting in this graft case just as they did six years ago in the Bell Telephone Company case.

In that case of crooked work every time one was found guilty the papers apologized for him by stating that he was engaged in legitimate business and did nothing improper.

DID THEY WANT TO CONVICT THE GAMBLERS?

On Saturday night, August 7th, Detective Wiley of the police department and uniformed Officer Gary, with a warrant sworn out against Samuel Kaufman for operating a gambling resort in room 26, at No. 112 N. 9th St., in what is known as the old Law Building, went to the aforesaid room at 10:30 o'clock and arrested Kaufman. The case was called Monday morning following and the occupants of the room at the time were summoned as witnesses.

On Monday the case was postponed until Wednesday and in the meantime one called Spence, who was present as a witness at the Monday morning hearing, had disappeared.

Officer Wiley testified that when he knocked a chain was holding the door from opening, that when it became known what was up a general scrambling for safety ensued; chairs were overturned, money and chips rattled and the officers were not permitted to enter until threats were made to shoot.

About fifteen men were found in the room besides Kaufman; the room contained a bed, a trunk, fifteen or twenty chairs and one long table.

Officer Wiley found in the trunk a "kitty" containing poker chips and with the initial "K" on the top.

The several witnesses called, including Councilman Selph, testified to the fact that gambling was going on and had gone on there many times before, though they generally said "a little poker."

The first witness said he went there "to play poker." When asked "why?" he said "because I knew Mr. Kaufman was there." "Saw seven or eight there playing poker that night."

This was the trend of all the testimony, that Mr. Kaufman was known by them, that they went there in many cases "to see Mr. Kaufman." Some said Mr. Kaufman opened the door to them, others testified that they had to call for Mr. Kaufman before being admitted. One testified he had been

there several times and could not name a time when Kaufman was not there.

In spite of all this, nearly every witness tried to convey the impression that Spence, the party who had disappeared, was running the place, although few of them could call Spence's name, and the only evidence they could deduce was that Spence was handling the money part of the time.

One witness, when asked what game was going on said: "I don't know enough about poker to know" and then on cross-questioning it turned out that he was selling poker chips himself that very night and stated in court what each chip was worth.

Another witness testified: "I know Mr. Kaufman, that's the reason I went there."

Now anyone hearing the evidence in the case could easily have seen that Mr. Kaufman was guilty and that there was a concerted plot to put the blame on somebody else. The lesson for the people to draw from this case is that the police department has not done its duty in this case.

The occupants of the room in question were guilty of violating the law, and yet not a one of them was even arrested except Kaufman.

If there was any doubt about Kaufman's being guilty it was certainly the duty of the department to arrest the other law-breakers on Monday when they appeared as witnesses and when Spence was present, before plans for him to disappear as scapegoat had materialized, for the police department knows well how these crooks get away, and as the commonwealth attorney admitted in the trial, Kaufman on a former occasion had done the same thing and put the blame on another party. Those who ought to know tell us that there was no desire on the part of the police department to make any one suffer the penalty of the law, that the object was to break up the game because it interferred with other bigger games going on in the neighborhood which they knew all about.

If the police had desired to break up the gamblers they would have arrested the whole bunch, including the councilman.

While the trial was going on a young man, who was one of

the witnesses caught in the gambling joint, came to THE IDEA man and with tears in his eyes begged that his name not appear in THE IDEA as it would kill his mother and seeing no good to be accomplished by publishing these names we promised not to use his name. Afterwards as we thought the matter over we regretted our promise and if it had not been made we would publish all the names, for we later asked the young man in question if he would have ever come to this if the papers had published his name when he was first caught in a gambling joint, and he said "certainly not." This shows that the papers of Richmond have been making criminals by protecting them from the public when they were caught. We have determined that in the future we will publish names of those caught in gambling joints and we believe that this announcement will keep many away.

When THE IDEA exposed the gambling at the Tuxedo on Broad Street, that particular kind of gambling was immediately stopped there.

Did you ever wonder why the recognized crooks on the council are all on valuable committees, while the clean men in in the council have to, very largely, content themselves with minor and uninfluential committee appointments.

We wonder how many times the city has purchased that single pile of cobble stones which belonged to the city.

We wonder too if the real rascals will be able to buy off as they have done formerly and put the blame on the scape goat.

Stealing from Richmond is perfectly legitimate and proper! Does the taxpayer think so?

THE SETTLING BASIN.

The sooner the people realize the fact that the settling basin is a mammoth monument to the utter failure of council-manic government, the better off they will be. Give us a bus-

iness management which government by commission alone can supply.

Now they tell us we'll have to pay about $6,000 on that settling basin before it can be used. The probability is we'll sink another cool million before Richmond gets anything like pure clear water.

The whole plant is a bungle from start to finish and yet we promote the man in charge after each failure.

CARNIVAL OF GRAFT

Montreal Loses Millions Through Operations of Gang

Press dispatches from Montreal under date of August 21st tell of organized graft in that city and show that the disclosures were made "at the instance of a citizen's committee which raised the necessary funds and employed counsel to conduct their case."

Montreal, August 21.—Testimony showing that the city of Montreal has lost millions of dollars in contract work and that official positions of all kinds have been bought and sold for years has been brought out by inquiry into civic affairs begun by the provincial government several weeks ago.

The investigation covered the administration of the police, fire and public works departments, each of which is controlled by a committee of Aldermen, with an administrative chief appointed by the committee. In the fire and police departments it is alleged that appointments were openly bought and sold at a price of $200 each.

In the public works department sworn testimony showed that the lowest bidders were ignored and that the contracts were awarded to higher bidders, who had a "pull" with certain middlemen, who conducted negotiations between the Aldermen and the contractors.

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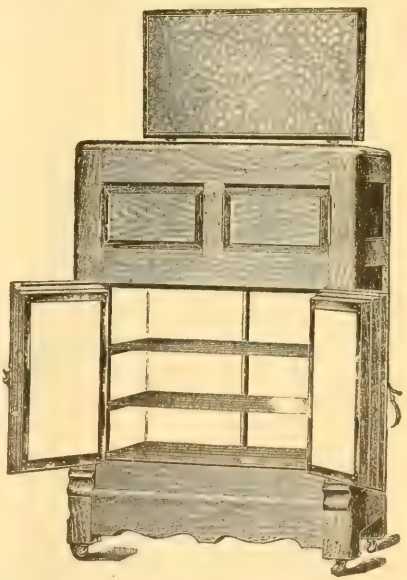
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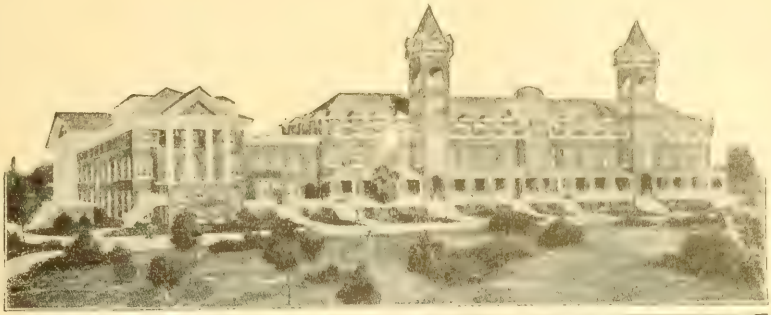
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Vol. III Sept. 4, 1909 No. 14

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WITT

AND OTHER SUBJECTS OF MOMENT

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THE IDEA

A Sign of the Times

VOL. III SEPTEMBER 4, 1909 No. 14

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Ask Their Resignations

Engineer Bolling and Justice Crutchfield

Some Lessons From the Grain Graft Farces.

As THE IDEA foretold last week, before the disclosures brought out by the trial of the negro driver, it has been discovered that, although the papers at first tried to make it appear that the negro alone was the blame, still there are others higher up who are much more guilty than the poor negro who was so quickly handled as a scape-goat to cover up an investigation into the heart of the matter.

The facts are these:

Driver Jas. Robinson carried a load of oats and rocks to the city weighmaster, and after having the load weighed, dumped off 190 pounds of stone and delivered the rest of his load to the city stables. It is not denied that in this way

the city was paying for 190 pounds of oats which the city never got.

The City Engineer, after making the discovery, had a talk with Mr. Alvey, the contractor who furnished the oats to the city, and then Mr. Alvey, after a talk with the chief of police, and on being advised so to do by city officials, swore out a warrant for the arrest of the driver.

At this point the City Engineer made his first blunder. He knew the city was paying for oats it did not get.

He knew that Mr. Alvey was getting money for oats which Mr. Alvey did not deliver. He knew that Alvey's driver was not stealing or attempting to steal any oats from the city. He did not know and never has yet discovered any evidence to show that the negro driver had ever stolen any oats from either the city or Mr. Alvey.

He only knew that Alvey's driver, who was, at the time, the agent for Mr. Alvey, had loaded 190 pounds of stones with a load of oats, which made the city chargeable with 190 pounds of oats, valued at some $3.50, which $3.50 would go to no other than Mr. Alvey.

It then became his duty, however disagreeable, to arrest Mr. Alvey, and if it should later appear that it was only an unconscious defrauding on the part of Alvey, because of Alvey's driver stealing from Alvey, then it would be up to Alvey to arrest Alvey's driver.

Yet, although Engineer Bolling knew that his department of the city was being defrauded by Mr. Alvey's concern, or the agent of his concern, the same city engineer does not arrest any one, but contents himself with advising Alvey to arrest his darkey.

The City Engineers' department was robbed; the City Engineer should have prosecuted for it.

Mr. Alvey was getting the money for the oats. Mr. Alvey was responsible for the delivery of the oats to the city. The oats paid for were not delivered to the city. The contractor Alvey alone was responsible to the city for this failure.

The question as to whether it was Alvey's fault or Alvey's drivers fault, was another matter.

The city was not getting delivered the goods from Mr. Alvey.

If there had been evidence that the driver stole oats which had become the property of the city, then Mr. Bolling might have concerned himself about arresting the negro.

If it had developed that the negro stole goods from Mr. Alvey and thus was the means of preventing Alvey from fulfilling his contract, then the City Engineer might have concerned himself with arresting the negro, but no evidence has yet been introduced to show this was the case, and the city has never yet had any official dealing with the driver. It has had official dealings with Mr. Alvey and has been technically defrauded by Alvey's concern (although the moral blame had not been placed on Mr. Alvey), and Mr. Alvey was the only one which the city could recognize in the premises as responsible and hold accountable for the theft. If Mr. Alvey could show that, though he was receiving money for oats he did not deliver, he was still not guilty of consciously defrauding the city, he could thus have cleared his skirts, but remember that, though unfortunate and to be regretted on Mr. Alvey's account, still the City Engineer should not have concerned himself with that.

Alvey alone was accountable to the city for the oat delivery, and his driver was accountable to him, and to him alone for his (the drivers) acts.

Since the city was robbed, the City Engineer should have prosecuted the offender, instead of contenting himself with advising the benefitted party to arrest one who may have offended this benefitted party.

Later, when the negro was arrested, and no evidence appeared to show that the negro stole anything whatever (though he may have stolen from Alvey, certainly he did not steal from the city), but when evidence is introduced to show that Alvey not only was the beneficiary of the steal, and that he had been for perhaps three years, still the engineer does not proceed against Alvey, but the city brings a warrant, utterly unwarranted, against the negro for attempting to steal from the city, and although at the trial in police court, no evidence was introduced to show he ever attempted to steal from

the city, still the poor darkey is rushed off to jail for 90 days, and, to cap the climax, after both police department and engineering department had refused to arrest the apparent offender, on the worst kind of circumstantial evidence against him, the police justice Crutchfield, although earnestly entreated to do so by the commonwealth's attorney, refused to issue a warrant against the only man whom any evidence had been introduced, tending to show had ever proffited at the expense of the city. Now these facts are self evident.

The street committee and the engineer and the police department knew for a whole week that the driver had not stolen from the city, and yet not a single one of these officials cared enough for the city's interest to attempt to arrest the offender and preferred to either let it cover itself up or else throw all the blame for inaction, on Justice John Crutchfield.

Crutchfield should be asked to forfeit his office for refusing to further the ends of justice, his sworn duty, when called upon to act, by the commonwealth's attorney.

Justice John let the cat out of the bag when he stated to the attorney: "It was the duty of the officers to swear out a warrant in the first place, against Mr. Alvey, when they found out these things a week ago. Why did not they swear out the warrant?"

This shows that it was the duty of both Bolling and the police to warrant Alvey a week before, and yet it also became Crutchfield's duty to do the same on receiving the same information "given under oath," and he admitted it by his statement. It seems that the whole shooting-match was in some unaccountable way, so mixed up in the affair that not one of them was willing to do his duty to his city; each one of them sworn officers of the city.

The plan was evidently to satisfy the people by making the negro suffer for the crime, but the people would not be satisfied, The Idea had so turned on the light that they saw the game and put up such a warning note of disapproval that even the *Times-Dispatch* felt called upon to make some mild remarks about the guilt higher up, and indignation against Justice John and Engineer Bolling, for their defeating the ends of justice is so apparent that it may be necessary, as it should be demanded, that both of them resign.

As the *Times-Dispatch* says, "The police department has repeatedly complained of the methods of Justice Crutchfield's court, and the turning of a court of justice into a place of buffonery".....the board stating that the men were frequently insulted and ridiculed to the demoralization of the force."

We fail to see how the justice could convict the negro of "attempting to steal," when there was no evidence to show such a state of affairs, unless the darkies statement that he received fifty cents sometimes for his part, was taken as evidence of his stealing, and if that were true, by the same evidence, another party was guilty, and there was a conspiracy, why put all the blame on one part of the conspiracy, and then, by convicting the driver, deprive the city of his testimony as evidence "because he had confessed."

Justice John's position is utterly untenable, and he knows it, but evidently thought that this matter might pass by as similar matters had passed by in the past. Big rascals in the past have escaped and some one fellow has taken the blame.

Will the citizens of Richmond permit the authorities to let justice miscarry and the innocent suffer for the guilty?

The Idea would inquire further, why Mr. Bolling wasted so much valuable time in trying to get Alvey arrest the driver, while, according to the driver, that same Mr. Alvey was aiding him in "jumping the town," by giving him two or three dollars with which to escape, when his clear duty was to act himself.

When some one steals from the city, is it necessary to call up some outsider and get him to pay for a warrant before anyone is arrested? The City Engineer, by his acts, says so.

The Idea does not believe there would have been any further attempt to find the guilty party if The Idea had not been on the field and had not, through its editor, shown the course it would likely pursue by personally inquiring of the police department concerning the arrest of Alvey.

There is evidently a concerted attempt to keep this matter quiet, and this attempt is so apparent that certain citizens are thinking—and have a right to think, that there may be a

great big reason for it, because there is somebody else to be protected.

It looks exceedingly strange that this kind of systematic stealing could be going on for so long without any one finding out about it. It also looks exceedingly strange that stealing had gotten so bold that the two men from the engineer's office who went to watch on this occasion, both stated that they saw the cobble stones in the wagon before the wagon got to the scales. Why could not the weigh-master see these cobble stones?

If it was not his duty to see what he was weighing, why should any weight be taken at all?

Big granite stones seen from a distance, by two men, and yet the city man who checked the weights of the city purchases, does not seem to have ever glanced in the direction of the wagon!

There is one thing dead sure, and that is, that Engineer Bolling has, by his acts, shown his unfitness for the position of city engineer, which he seems to have gotten as a reward for being so unfit as superintendent of water, as to permit the city to be flim-flammed in the flume matter.

The council has given the citizens Crutchfield and Bolling. Now let the council remedy their blunder and give the citizens capable men.

WHERE DOES IT STOP?

A Letter to a Judge Brings Reply From a Whiskey Salesman In the Office of a Political Boss.

In the fall of 1907, the people of Richmond became so thoroughly disgusted with the way the saloon question was handled by the courts here, that they arose in their power and demanded certain improvements. As a result, an ordinance was gotten through the Council to regulate the closing and opening hours of the saloons, and "to prescribe the num-

ber and location of the places where the sale of ardent spirits may be licensed."

As a result, the number of bars in the city was reduced to 150, and a rule was made to refuse license to saloons which were located on corners where car transfers were made. In this way the two bars on Broad and Seventh were removed, but a license was granted to the bar of Puccinelli Bros., on the northeast corner of Main and Eighteenth, on condition that they move off the corner. Now, be it known, that even if the people had never demanded it, the State law would preclude the issuing of a license on such a corner, because it specifically states that licenses shall be granted only in places "suitable and appropriate" for such purposes.

Now, many men and women of the city testified to the horrible conditions which these dives made on the corners where their children and themselves had to wait for cars. The matter, however, was apparently settled by Judge Witt's granting this license on the condition that the bar move from the corner.

The license was granted as usual, at the regular time, in the spring of 1908, last year, and the bar continued to do business. It soon appeared, however, that the licensee had no intention of moving, and so certain citizens desired to know why the court's rule had not been obeyed; and, so a very prominent man who had an office in one of the sky-scrapers on Main street, wrote a letter to Judge Witt, calling his attention to the fact that his condition had been violated, and asking for some explanation.

Then transpired the happenings which should interest every citizen of Richmond. No reply was received from the judge, but on the other hand, Mr. Wirt Taylor, whiskey salesman with headquarters in the office of one Clyde Saunders, recognized political boss of the city, made it convenient to have a talk with the gentleman aforesaid, in reference to his inquiry concerning the granting of the whiskey license, and proceeded to protest against that gentleman's bringing up the matter, on the ground as he stated, that Puccinelli Bros. kept a clean and decent place, and allowed "no boot-blacks" to loaf in the place, and the same whiskey drummer then begged the gentleman in question to go down and call on the bar

people and see what a nice place they ran, and assured him that they would treat him fine, and he could see for himself how decent a bar they kept.

Now, let us state that it makes no difference how decent and nice a place the bar in question was.

The condition of the granting was not that they should keep a nice place; if it were, then all bars would be put out of commission, or else license would be given to all applicants depending on the personal desire of a judge. The condition, however, was that they should move. They did not move, and the judge did not care whether they moved or not, and another license was granted to the same bar, which, though in the most disreputable section of the city, still makes a plea for decency, by posting a sign on the outside wall, "No bootblacks allowed."

A councilman was recently heard to remark concerning this bar, that it was "a dirty low dive."

Now we would inquire what connection Wirt Taylor, whiskey salesman, has with the Hustings Court of Richmond, that matters of special privileges to low dives should be referred to him?

We hesitate to follow this matter to its logical conclusion, because we do not like to believe that the whole fabric of city government in Richmond is corrupt.

Information has repeatedly come to The Idea that gross wrongs were being done by the higher city courts, and we have held back from the public gaze, these facts, because we were unwilling to believe all that they showed.

We will not, therefore, make at this time, the criticisms which this transaction abundantly justifies, but will ask the citizens to stop and think on the relations which exist between our courts and the law-breaking element of the community.

Why should a letter to a judge bring an answer from a whiskey salesman in the office of a political boss?

When The Idea *started,* three months ago, certain citizens tried to make it appear that there was no graft here.

Since then, the public conscience has awakened, and now in one week the daily papers are forced to print scandals in

six grafting cases: Grain, Market-house, Grading, Rebates, Paving rock and Police Court. Oh, yes they'll come and tell, but only after THE IDEA has made 'em do it in self defence.

Letters To The Editor

The editor's table is crowded with letters, unanswered, for lack of opportunity, from those who could give us information concerning the many kinds of graft, with which Richmond is harrassed. We desire to thank our friends for their many kindnesses in helping in the work. Do not think we lack appreciation because we do not reply. We hope soon to get time to answer all our correspondence.

The work is more than was anticipated, and our force is not equal to the occasion.

Meantime, Thank you.

A CITIZENS COMMITTEE FOR RICHMOND

Let the good citizens of Richmond organize a citizen's committee to investigate the graft conditions here, and they will find a system of well equipped, well organized graft that would do credit? to a city ten times as large.

THE IDEA can turn on the light, but the citizens themselves must act in order to cleanse the city of the vile corruption which it is harboring.

The time is ripe for action. Evil is organized. Are you?

GAS, WATER, ELECTRICITY—WHAT'S THE COST.

What does it cost the City of Richmond to produce a foot of gas?

What does it cost the City of Richmond to pump a gallon of water?

What will it cost Richmond to produce a unit of electricity?

Although we have owned our own gas plant for years, no one has any idea whether it's a good thing or not. We may be going in debt on it. Who knows?

And that electric plant. We are going it blindfold. No provision has ever been made for polls or wiring, and the city is just now trying to beautify itself by cutting out polls; whereas, if we get this plant working, we'll have to add more polls at an enormous expense.

And water. We've sunk millions on that and never will have any clear water until we spend millions more. The blunders increase. The committee is just finding that they will have to have connections cut between the several basins to let out muddy water; and now they call for $20,000 more to repair the basin floor, which has been buckling, and when that is done, we'll find we've got to put in a filtration system, and drink alum water for our health.

Then, when Richmond is bankrupt, we'll have to replace the whole rotten cement basins, because we've committed the matter to one incompetent to work it, and then promoted him for his failure.

What do you think of a judge who will express an opinion from the bench, before the case comes into court?

A certain little cheap 25-cent a year weekly whiskey sheet, whose editor-in-chief admitted that his paper so pleased the whiskey dealers that they offered to buy their editorial columns for the boosting of the whiskey cause, has, in its eager search for the limelight, and the consequent gain, recently made a vicious and lying attact on the editor of The Idea. The editorial in question is not worthy of any extended comment. But since some who do not know the facts may have seen the article, we will simply expose one lie and state that the article is made up of like ones. The editorial writer, whoever he is, and he is evidently ashamed of his

name, for he hides behind the statement that the top-heavy little affair has thirty editors, makes the following statement:

"Mr. Yoder formerly published his paper in Lynchburg (until his printer there refused longer to handle such matter)"

We answer by showing an extract from a letter from our printers in Lynchburg, mailed to us after we came to Richmond, asking to let them continue doing our printing:

That letter says:

"We regret that you do not see your way clear to let us continue issuing your publication.

"Let us figure with you anyway, and we believe that we can get together on a mutually satisfactory basis."

Now let all those who believe anything this little paper says, stand on their heads. Thank you for your attention. Next!

"They that take the sword shall die by the sword."

We wonder if man will ever realize that the quickest way to kill himself is to go gunning for his enemies.

The man who fights the most dies the quickest. The nation that fights the most die the quickest.

The fightingest empire of the earth died young, because of its violent propensities. The people that has maintained its individual characteristics and lived longest as a peculiar and strong people, has resorted to war less than any other people.

The Jew, as an individual, has controlled himself under oppression better than any other individual, and his is today, the strongest race in the world. It was this Jewish race that gave us Jesus of Nazareth, who preached the gospel of non-resistance and self control. It was the wise Jew Soloman, who said, "He that ruleth his spirit is better than he that taketh a city." And "It is the glory of a man to pass over a transgression."

When a man is so little a man as to lose his self-control and fight, even though he beat or kill his opponent, he has sinned first against himself; and in the second place, he has not accomplished anything for himself. He has hurt himself —he has lost himself—he's no longer his own boss. He's

sold out, and stranger still, he has actually helped the cause he was trying to hurt.

History of States and of individuals shows that persecution and violence hurts the persecutor and helps the persecuted. If a man beats another, it shows perhaps, that he's physically stronger or perhaps he's a coward to take an unmanly advantage, or, perhaps, both. It certainly don't remedy any wrong which may have been done.

The only fights which accomplish good and really help humanity, are those fought with the weapons of truth. "Ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free."

If Richmond's malefactors desire to have their evil doing rapidly broken up, we know of no more effective method than to attempt violence.

If they are wise, they will keep quiet and cease resistance.

We do not expect them to do this, because they are not wise.

If they were wise they would not be engaged in their crooked work.

They are otherwise, and they will resist and they will be destroyed through their resistance.

SPECIAL NOTICE TO OUR HEAD SERVANT

We are not fighting you Mr. Richardson.

We are simply trying to get you to do what you said you would do. You promised some work for us. We hired you and are paying you for it.

We laid down the specifications in printed statutes, and you took an oath binding you to those specifications. Now you tell us you don't think we know what we want, and you will use your own judgment in the matter, although we did not, when we hired you, do it with the provision that you were to act as you thought best. If we had we would not have asked you to swear you would follow our orders so carefully compiled.

You have broken the contract, and we now require that you begin to read our orders as set down in statute and constitution, and act accordingly. Otherwise, get out of the way, and we'll hire another whom we can rely on to do our bidding; who does not know more than we do as to what we want done. We, the people, are the sovereign people; you the mayor, are our public servant.

Get over that fool notion that in Richmond, "the servant is greater than his master."

Do you wonder where your two million and a half of taxes goes when you find the city is paying sixty-one cents for oats while others are paying forty-nine cents, and then, instead of getting oats you find the city gets paving rock, and then the rock is not even delivered, but sold to the city again.

The secret way the city has of looking into these matters will insure that the real culprit gets away. Postponement is not the way to get "speedy trials," which the constitution attempts to provide for.

We know of no public man who has been more villified and has had harsher things said of him that Theodore Roosevelt regarded by many as the greatest President America has produced.

The reason he has been so "cussed out" is found in the fault that he was a terror to the evil doers.

When a man is slandered and villified by the law-breakers, it's a sure sign he is doing something in the interests of his country.

"We love him for the enemies he's made."

A man's greatness is measured by his unpopularity with evil doers.

It would make us pause if the good people of the community were against us, even if we thought we were right.

It encourages us on to greater effort to know that the rascals are fighting us, for this is a proof that our efforts are accomplishing good.

When The Idea finds one after one, the forces of evil fighting and doing their best to ruin this publication, it lends new vigor to the fight and renews The Idea's confidence in the righteousness of its cause and encourages the belief that

the work is really seriously wounding the cause of wrong doing.

It would indeed be time to stop publication, if THE IDEA's efforts were so futile as not even to arouse the rascals to fight back.

It's the hit dog that barks.

THE IDEA's flings must have hit some very vicious dogs from the unearthly racket they are making.

Catawba, Roanoke, Co., Va., Aug. 27, 1909.

Mr. A. A. Yoder:

Your IDEA is a good one and has found its way in the great Catawba valley. It is setting a good example for the church on reform.

It is such a warm sheet and as I am subject to cold feet, I will use it in place of a hot water bag. I inclose stamps for subscription to begin with Saturday's edition, August 28th.

R. L. NASH.

Why is it that some papers are always fussing about the church in politics when the real cause for 95 per cent. of our political troubles lies in the fact that the saloon is in politics and has its voice in every election and every piece of legislation. THE IDEA believes in the churches getting into politics and getting there quick, though we are always opposed to any union of church and State as such.

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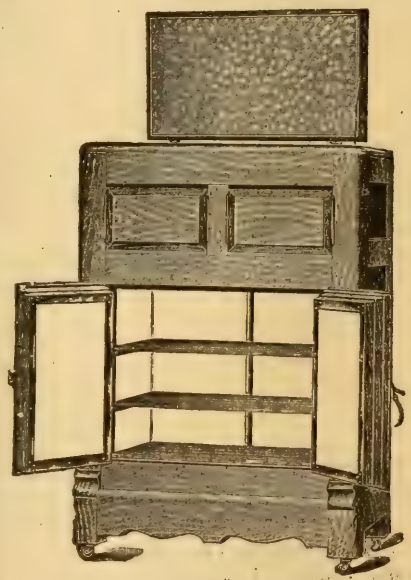
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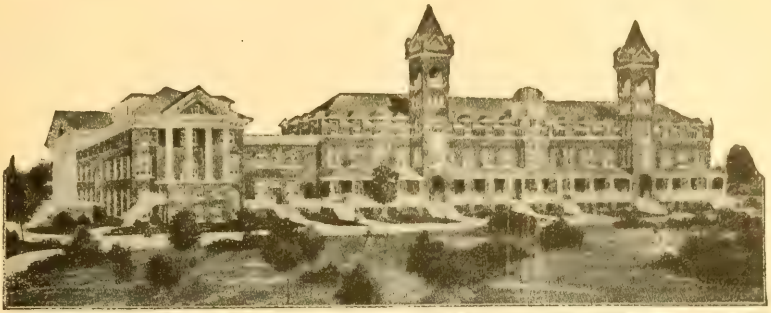
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THE IDEA

A Sign of the Times

VOL. III SEPTEMBER 11, 1909 No. 15

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FOREWORD

Concerning The Idea's Methods Crooked Government and Good Citizenship

The attention of THE IDEA has been frequently called to rumors and reports of blunders and errors and crookedness and graft concerning which it would gladly publish all the facts. Most of these complaints have been filed for reference when time is afforded to look into the merits of each case, for our time is crowded and THE IDEA does not publish any statement based on rumor. In each case the editor gives his personal attention to the details of examining into all cases which THE IDEA deems worthy of publication.

For this reason, whatever THE IDEA publishes can be relied on as accurate. THE IDEA pays no reporters to work up sensational stuff and rush it into print. If our object were sen-

sationalism our columns could be filled each week with highly interesting matter pretending to expose wrong doing which would get the ear of the public but would not be of service in eradicating evil because it would not of necessity, be accurate enough to be relied upon and THE IDEA would not accomplish much more than the daily papers, whose unreliability is proverbial.

THE IDEA likewise could go ahead before thoroughly sifting its information and before thoroughly posting itself with all the facts and strike some telling blows, but the plan of THE IDEA is to try to get all the facts in a given case and then strike a sledge hammer blow that will carry weight and accomplish the desired end—the cleansing of the city of the evils of government and the building up of a better government.

You know the daily papers have a way of publishing sensational stuff, based on rumor, casting reflections on public men. Generally these rumors are based on facts but the articles are so written that the wrong impression is made and yet no one is liable for the damage done by the unprincipled paper for the reason that the damage is done by the dirty and contemptible use of innuendo and suggestion and names are used with such care that though the damage is done the publisher does not lay himself liable to damages.

THE IDEA does not adopt such cowardly tactics. When THE IDEA goes after wrong doers it is willing to take the responsibility of its charges by straightforwardness of statement and by calling the name of the party responsible.

You know *things* do not do wrong. When a moral wrong has been done some individual *person* is responsible. When THE IDEA wants to expose a wrong done, its first concern is—what *person* did the wrong.

Our friends frequently suggest to us that we be less *personal* and we have to reply that THE IDEA is after the *persons* who do the wrong and that this method of fixing the responsibility on the *person* is the only method which can eradicate the wrong.

Three big papers have existed for years in Richmond and contented themselves with now and then *impersonally* stating

that wrongs existed and as a result guilty persons have grown fat through the corrupting of the city and evils have increased beyond measure until it has now become exceedingly dangerous to even mention the big crooks' names.

The daily papers here had a glorious opportunity six years ago to turn on the light and purify Richmond of its band of grafters and boodlers when the most notorious of them confessed their crimes only to be apologized for by these same newspapers.

And what is the result? The dirty work has increased until to-day Richmond is one of the worst managed cities for its size on the map.

We wonder what the founders of the city would say if they could see how Richmond has fallen as a city from its high ideals.

What would ancient Virginians say of the way intellectual well-educated, well-churched, wealthy Richmond has neglected the managing of its governmental affairs.

Though the papers are to blame still when the light has been turned on the duty of righting wrongs is that of the citizens and the citizens will have to organize for service if they ever get rid of the rascals that rule the city. The weapon to be used to fight rascals is the ballot and it behooves the good people of Richmond to see to their franchises, pay their capitation taxes in time to vote and put in office clean men. Richmond can easily right almost all her wrongs at one election if her so-called better classes would look after the interests of the city one half as well as the crooks look after corrupting the city.

Have you noticed that Mayor Richardson is attending police court recently? He was not seen there formerly. We have noticed him there several times recently. And did you ever hear of the assistant city attorney being in the police court to assist the prosecution on a charge of stealing $3.50 as was the case recently. They are getting wise. They are taking notice and if The Idea were snuffed out to-day the Editor would feel that it had accomplished a worthy work.

Crutchfield or Pollock

Where's the Trouble?

On September the 1st the *Times-Dispatch* had an article entitled in large prominent capitals, "Crutchfield Blocks with Pollock's Help," and every one knows that if both parties had not been guilty the conservative, fearful *Times-Dispatch* would never have bucked up against them and made the statement. for both are such prominent politicians.

The article showed that a certain negro, Harris by name, had "squatted" on a stall in the city market and refused to pay for the same and when he was summoned into court he did not appear but Mr. G. K. Pollock appeared for him and a rule was issued for the negro on July 9th. Another rule was ordered on August 27th, and the negro, it now appears, was not served with either rule, but continued to occupy the stall in utter defiance of the market clerk, apparently for no other reason than that he stood in with somebody. Now it is very significant that Mr. Gilbert Pollock was Harris' counsel and it is also very significant that Pollock did appear and the negro did not. Now is there anyone who thinks that a negro would refuse to answer a summons to the police court if he did not know that his counsel could protect him in ignoring that summons? Now Gilbert Pollock knew his business and as a result no rule ever was issued to get Harris into court. And you want to know who is to blame? Well, it is easy to see that Crutchfield did not care to have the negro arrested when Pollock appeared for him for he did not even fix the blame for the failure to issue the rule and did not see to it that his rule was obeyed.

We would enquire whether it is customary for Justice John to issue a rule and then let the matter drop. This charge is often made and we believe it to be true that when the influence is strong enough the offender can get free by employing

the right lawyer and going through the mere form of bailing or bonding or ruling and then the whole matter is hushed up. Two instances of such procedure have come to light in the last few days. Griffin's bond was not required. Harris' rule was never issued. Some sweet day the citizens will see how crooked this whole department of justice is.

Did you ever wonder why the crooks always employ Pollock? When a gambler or a dive keeper or a barkeeper or a pickpocket gets into trouble it's always clear sailing because Pollock defends about ninety-five per cent. of them.

Pollock, the councilman and maker of city laws, makes his living by protecting the law breakers against these city laws.

If the writer of these lines were a crook he'd get Pollock to defend him too when he got into trouble for somehow or other his client's don't have to suffer like other men's clients and the reason is found in the fact brought out in an early number of The Idea that Pollock's influence is great in police court and with the police force.

Will you vote for Pollock at the next election?

We wonder why Justice John fined a plumber $100 for stealing gas from the city but gave a driver ninety days on a little charge, unproven at that, of simply attempting to steal from the city. Did he make the difference because the plumber was white and the driver was colored or did he make the difference to cover a bigger crime?

BOLLING'S BLUNDERS

Extravagance in Hauling and Paving

In the past weeks the attention of The Idea has frequently been called to blunders of the engineering department in the nature of bad grading, extravagance in the management of

paving work and general laxity in running the various works carried on by the city, both in planning and executing and also in neglecting the necessary overseeing of the city's affairs.

Opportunity has not yet been afforded to carefully verify these various reports and though they have come to us on good authority, The Idea has waited for more carefully completed details before publishing.

Recently in the pursuit of other work however The Idea has run upon two blunders worthy of mention in its columns.

Just about two weeks ago the engineering department placed granite paving blocks in the alley extending from 13th to 14th Streets between Main and Franklin.

This is a rather wide and long alley and the work was done at considerable expense.

Within less than a week after the work was completed another force of workmen was seen in the alley tearing up the newly placed paving and putting in gas piping. Now this was not only a big blunder because it made it necessary for the city to pay for paving twice within a few days on the same spot, but because the patch work resulting practically ruins that section of the paving, and after paying for the work twice the city has a bum job on its hands that will hasten the necessity of renewing the whole work.

The possibility is that next week the water department will want to lay pipes in this alley and tear it all up again. And the week following some other department will want to do the same thing again.

As a prominent business man of that neighborhood remarked, why can't the city engineer who has general supervision of the streets, see that the various departments work together and have the work of all the departments so co-ordinated that the same work will not have to be done over by two or three different departments of the same government, and as a result leave the whole job a botch.

The city of Richmond wastes thousands and thousands of dollars each year by just this method of duplicating its work. The Idea would not deem this worthy of writing up if it were not for the fact that this is no isolated case but is a fair sample of what is going on all the time all over Richmond and shows extravagant management and lack of head work and the tax-

payers of Richmond as a result loose tens of thousands of dollars in this way alone.

Everyone who has carefully looked into business failures knows that it is the continuous drain of minor extravagances that wrecks business much more than large lump losses. If Richmond could cut out all of these little blunders it would perhaps not miss the loss of a few hundred thousand dollars on a rotten settling basin and flume now and then.

Another case of extravagance and lack of head work and business was recently called to The Idea's attention by a young lady stenographer. She noticed that for many days, perhaps three weeks, carts were hauling dirt and dumping it on the paving on Franklin Street between Eighth and Ninth Streets, while city hands were at the same time busily engaged in shovelling the same dirt up again and placing it in city carts and hauling it away. The young lady suggested that the city was doing this to dry the dirt out before using it, but as this was evidently not the case The Idea looked into the matter and found that a contractor was excavating at the corner of Seventh and Franklin and placing the dirt in the city streets and the city was picking it up and carrying it away. Now the point to be made is this, that there was a large amount of money unnecessarily wasted in paying for the labor of dumping this dirt and reshovelling it back into the carts. It would have been such an easy matter for the engineering department to have made some arrangement with the contractor who was using the city street as a dumping ground, to save this unnecessary expense of perhaps hundreds of dollars for doing absolutely unnecessary work.

The blunder was such a foolish and absurd one that the attention of a young woman, at the courting age at that, was forcibly called to it. And young women are not supposed to be good business men nor are they supposed to know anything about city government.

The city engineer, Mr. Bolling, had charge of this work.

BOLLING'S BIG BLUNDERS—THREE COST THE TAXPAYERS $81,000.

Several years ago Mr. T. M. Landers, then a contracting plumber, sued Mr. Bolling, the present city engineer, then

superintendent of the water department, for about $20,000 damages because Mr. Bolling had practically confiscated his business by refusing to grant him a plumber's license. It appears that Mr. Bolling charged that Mr. Landers was using iron pipe in part of the plumbing of a house in the suburbs contrary to the rule of the department in charge. It is also stated that Mr. Bolling had permitted iron piping in the city hall and other large buildings but when Mr. Landers used it he took away his license and it is even stated, on what we consider excellent authority, that Mr. Bolling even refused to let Mr. Landers work as a journeyman plumber for another concern.

The matter came up so long ago that it is hard to verify details, but we are sure of the main facts in the case.

It is certain that Mr. Landers entered suit and was awarded a verdict. The damages assessed according to the best information now obtainable by us; was $9,000, according to others it was $20,000. At any rate Mr. Landers was vindicated and Mr. Bolling was to pay $9,000, more or less.

But what does the city council do? The city council has a meeting and votes away the $9,000 (more or less) of the people's money to pay for Mr. Bolling's blunder.

The city council should have gotten rid of Mr. Bolling at this time for incompetency but instead it soaked the taxpayer.

Time draws on and Mr. Bolling is still superintendent of water and he draws the plans for a big settling basin and flume. Contracts are awarded and the work goes ahead under the direct supervision of Mr. Bolling. The flume is to cost some $56,000 and after paying out $50,000, the water committee appears before the council and recommends the paying of the balance, $6,000, to the contractors, and Mr. Mills, chairman of this water committee (get the idea!) makes a plea for the final payment before the job is tested.

At this point the council wakes up and refuses to pay the balance and on testing the flume the whole affair collapses and it is found that the city has been faked under the eye of Mr. Bolling out of a $56,000 flume and in the investigation it appears that Mr. Bolling is utterly incompetent and four

out of five of the investigating committee recommend his dismissal.

The council, however, again becoming very liberal with the taxpayers' affairs, refuses to dismiss Mr. Bolling and if you look to see why you'll find that the same ring crowd that always runs together, led by Mills and Pollock, voted to retain him and these fellows cracked the ring whip and the underlings obeyed and then what do we find. We find the same Mr. Bolling promoted to be city engineer and the council again votes to spend some $56,000 more for another flume, although the contracting firm of I. J. Smith & Co. offered to do the work for some $44,000, thus throwing away $12,000 more.

Now this same water committee bobs up again and tells us that the heat of the sun has caused the cement floor of the settling basin, designed and supervised by Mr. Bolling, to buckle. Think of it a minute. Did you ever see a piece of sidewalk months after construction buckling and cracking and rotting as a result of the heat of the sun? That's baby talk. That rotten basin was laid with a foundation of graft and incompetency and the incompetent plotter and builder of it should be held to account for the worthless job.

The latest amount that this fake is estimated to cost the city is $20,000.

And that's not all. Mr. Bolling has recently made another big blunder over towards Fairview Heights. Here the city has had to pay out about $1,000 to fill up what was graded in error and the original error in grading of course cost more than $1,000 of unnecessary expense. This means at least $2,000 of expense on this little job alone which the city lost through blunders of Mr. Bolling and yet our incompetent council retains our incompetent city engineer.

Now count the cost, all chargeable to Mr. Bolling's incompetency.

Suit,	$ 9,000.00
Flume,	50,000.00
Basin,	20,000.00
Grading,	2,000.00
Total,	$81,000.00

And that don't begin to state the total losses to the city by Mr. Bolling's blunders. The city council gave us Mr. Bolling, and the crooked Democratic committee, by crooked election, gave us a rotten council and the trouble at the bottom lies in the voter who don't care enough about his city to vote carefully like a man and keep such crooked committees out of power.

The remedy is to be found first in arousing and getting organized. Unless the citizens of Richmond get busy and formulate a Law and Order League or a Citizens' Committee which will attempt to see that the laws are enforced and clean men nominated for and elected to office, we'll have thousands and thousands of dollars annually wasted and you and I will pay the bill.

Did you know that when it comes to a show down in the city council the ring crowd can always show a majority. That's why you have men like McCarthy on the police board. There is a ring crowd in the majority on this outlandish police board too. You see when the council can be dominated by the crooks of course they can put their men in the police board and when you have a police board run by grafters you'll have just the crooked work that has come to light recently on 17th Street, dive keepers protected by the police department until The Idea makes the department get busy and make a few arrests.

We learn that Justice John says that he is having the busiest time he has ever had in his history and the reason is simple. The police department is beginning to find that it will be held to account for the violation of the law.

A FAMILY AFFAIR.

Did it ever occur to you that nearly everybody connected with or employed by the city of Richmond is kin to somebody else in the city government?

Get back numbers of The Idea at The Idea office, 904 Capitol Street.

WATCH US GROW

CIRCULATION 7,000

Four weeks ago we printed 4,500 IDEAS.
Three weeks ago we printed 5,000 IDEAS.
Two weeks ago we printed 6,000 IDEAS.
One week ago we printed 6,500 IDEAS.

They were put on sale last week on Friday afternoon. On Saturday we had sold out and had to send a man out to try to pick up a few from newsdealers to try to supply the demand at our office. This week we print 7,000 copies.

We expect very soon to be able to put on extra pages and even to double the text matter and give you a regular ten-cent magazine for five cents.

Watch THE IDEA grow.

TO ADVERTISERS.

Our circulation is so rapidly increasing that we'll have to put the price of advertising up very soon. Better write us quick for space if you want to get in on the ground floor.

IS THERE BRIBERY?

How About it, Mr. Mills

Two weeks ago THE IDEA had an editorial on the rebate matter of Mr. Morgan Mill's committee. At that time THE IDEA said: "Let the committee produce this rebate letter and place it before the public. It's the public's property."

It now comes to THE IDEA on excellent authority that the

reason this matter was not made public as called on by The Idea to do was because this letter was a plain, outright bribe. The circumstances of the case also bear this out for it is stated that the bidding concern had no record of the matter and was anxious to get out of the agreement made by the agent.

Now if Mr. Mill's committee, a servant committee of the people of Richmond, were not guilty of accepting this bribe offered to them they can easily clear their skirts of the suspicion which at present the people of Richmond have a right to hold against them by making all the facts in the case public and by showing this letter to the public. Mr. Mills had an excellent opportunity to right his committee before the people when he rushed into print in a recent newspaper article soon after The Idea appeared but we notice he was careful not to furnish a copy of that letter.

We now call on him a second time to show the letter The citizens will eagerly await his reply.

How about it Mr. Mills?

You don't have to listen very closely to hear Idea echoes in the daily papers of Richmond. Sit down and write them a letter thanking them for it. They'll appreciate it. And maybe after a while they'll get real busy and help put the rascals out. Just let them know it's popular and then watch 'em tumble.

Rich parents are an awful handicap to youth—*Hubbard.*

We are now working on the gambling cases and will soon issue a broadside on that question. We'll show how our servants employed by us to protect us against them are protecting them against our laws.

Don't think The Idea is not going to stick. It is not the quitting kind and then it is built on a solid foundation.

If we were just simply kicking to grind our own axe it would be a different matter but we have no animosities and are fighting for broad principles.

We have enough matter on hand to keep us going for a year

without hunting new material. Our trouble is not in finding material to fill up THE IDEA but in knowing what to cut out to keep from running over.

If THE IDEA could live in Lynchburg, as it was doing until it came here, on a circulation of never more than 3,200, once a month, we certainly can live on a sale of 6,000 as we are selling now, each week. And remember our sales are gradually increasing and we expect a naverage circulation of, to make a modest estimate, at least 8,000 in the city of Richmond and several thousand more throughout the State.

We agree with those who have little faith in the average magazine started in Richmond. Richmond is called the burial ground of magazines because of the fact that they do not thrive here and they nearly always die.

Now the reason is this: The magazines started in Richmond have always been literary magazines and have not appealed to anyone but the literary classes and then not for what they were but simply for sentiment, because the people hoped they would grow into some great Southern magazine.

Notice this big fact, however, that THE IDEA is published because of a demand for a fearless and outspoken paper against the evils of the hour.

This demand comes from everywhere—the mechanic, the doctor, the lawyer, the preacher, the teacher, the farmer, poor and rich, all alike not only desire better conditions but recognize in THE IDEA, the fighting organ of those who work and hope for better things.

It will be surprising for some to know how the workingman, the wage-earner and the good women of Richmond are rallying to our support as is evinced by the large number of letters received from them.

We are fighting the fight of the average man against the privileged man, the people against the bosses.

Our sales on Church Hill and in Fulton, where so many of the wage-earners live, are especially rapid in their increase. These are the people that feel most the oppression of the privileged few and the burden of taxation brought about by wasteful extravagance of city funds and loose and lax methods of management and crookedness of officials and graft in the

building of municipal works. The wage-earner bears the burden and he is beginning to know who is responsible for the fact that he does not get a square deal.

A DISGRACE.

Is it a disgrace to fight crime?

Is it a disgrace to expose crookedness in our courts?

Is it a disgrace to tell the people that our servants, the Judges of our courts, are in league with the gentlemanly criminal to protect crime?

Is it a disgrace to have judges that can be and are approached by crooked politicians to get their friends off for offences against the law?

Is it a disgrace to have a weakling in office of great responsibility?

Is it a disgrace to allow ward heelers and members of city councils working daily in our police and criminal courts shielding criminals?

If you would spend an hour in recreation, you cannot do better than drop in at the Theato, Broad & Fifth Sts., where you will find attractive moving pictures, with plenty of clean fun in skits and sketches by vaudeville performers. See their advertisement in this number. Take the children along.

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D. M. Smithdeal
President.

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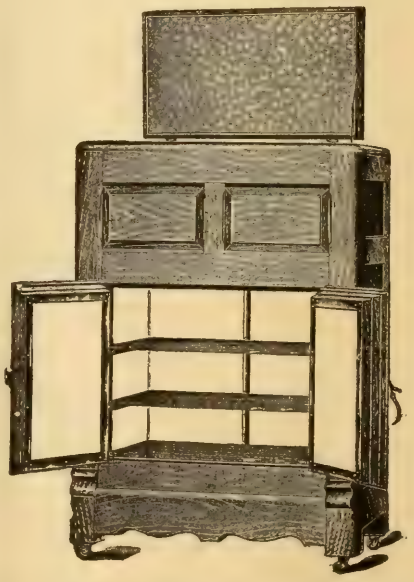
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THE IDEA

A SIGN OF THE TIMES

Vol. III Sept. 18, 1909 No. 16

$2.00 A YEAR

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HIGH SCHOOL GRAFT
FAIRMOUNT BLUNDERS
NEGRO SHOT
SAUNDERS' SUIT
MILLS' COMMITTEE
FOR THE MAYOR AND POLICE JUSTICE

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THE IDEA

A Sign of the Times

VOL. III SEPTEMBER 18, 1909 No. 16

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POLICE COMMISSIONERS ARE LAW BREAKERS

Accept Bribes From Car Co. and Forfeit their Offices.

It now develops that the members of the Board of Police Commissioners, besides protecting criminals and violators of the law, as they are doing daily in Richmond, are also themselves violating the law. It is a well established principle of morals that no city official or employee should receive gifts from any party or concern with which the city has any business dealings. The acceptance of a gift was considered by ancient Rome to be in itself the acceptance of a bribe, although no proof could be furnished showing the purpose of the gift. The Virginia Constitution, in recognition somewhat of this principle, contains the following in Article 12, Section 161:

"No transportation or transmission company shall grant to any State, county or municipal officer any frank, free pass, free transportation, or any rebate or reduction in the rate

charged by such company to the general public for like services. * * * * And any such officer who shall accept any gift, privilege or benefit as is prohibited by this section shall thereby forfeit his office and be subject to such further penalties as may be prescribed by law."

Now, The Idea recently learned that Messrs. Gordon and Manning, both Police Commissioners, were riding on free passes, and so in order to find out how it happened that these public officers were violating the Constitution of the State, inquiry was made at the office of the Car Company and of employees of the Company, and it was discovered that all the Police Commissioners are furnished with free passes.

Now, the question arises, why does the Car Company give away passes to Police Commissioners. Car companies are not in the habit of giving away something for nothing.

They don't give you and me and other private citizens any free passes; in fact, they collect from us twice for one ride when they can do so by any technicality, as they have been doing on transferring to certain lines recently until The Idea, by its publicity, stopped it. And they don't give you a free pass because you have nothing to give them in return. What, then, does the Board of Police Commissioners have to give the Car Company in return for the favors the Car Company gives them?

If you will go out in the West End at night you will find out. There you will find that the Car Company has saved itself the expense of thousands and thousands of dollars in building barns for their sheds by leaving their cars in the city streets at night. This is a violation of the law, and policemen have so reported it to the Chief, but nothing has been done, and you wonder why? Simpy because the Police Board don't want to have the law enforced and, somehow or other here in Richmond the word of the Police Board is more respected than the Constitution of the State, although this Board has, in law, no authority in regard to the duties of the police in enforcing the law. Their duty is simply to look after certain minor details of routine work, such as "providing badges, uniforms, etc.," and prescribing hours of work and appointing policemen, but the duty of the police-

men after appointment is clearly defined by State law and cannot be modified by the Board. Still, this Board practically rules the situation because, since it appoints and can remove from office, what these men say is of great weight with the department, and no policeman or chief wants to lose his job by being over-zealous.

Do you wonder why illegal houses of ill fame are practically legalized in the face of one of the clearest laws ever written when the city is dominated by a rotten Police Board that will accept bribes from a car company? Do you wonder why the Sunday closing laws are violated every week by both policemen and merchants when you've got a rotten Police Board that accepts bribes from a rotten car company?

Do you wonder why so much whiskey is sold here on Sunday when you've got a rotten Police Board that accepts bribes from a car company and then keeps the policeman from doing his sworn duty because he fears to lose his job if he abides by his oath?

If you or I leave a wheelbarrow in the street over night we'll most likely pay a fine for obstructing the streets or violation of some other ordinance, all because we don't give the Police Board any free passes or other valuable consideration.

The Car Company likewise enjoys certain other immunities and blessings and privileges which the individual cannot have, but the publishing of this one specific instance should arouse the people to a realization that there is rottenness and bribing going on in Richmond. Let the citizens get together for the protection of their rights and organize a law enforcement league, which shall see to it that Police Commissioners and public officers obey and respect the law just as much as any one else.

Now, as a result of this action on the part of the Police Commissioners, these men have forfeited their offices. The law says: "Any such officer who shall accept any gift, privilege or benefit as is prohibited by this section shall thereby forfeit his office.

Therefore, in law, Richmond to-day has no Board of Police Commissioners, and it is the duty of the Council to

give us another Board; and they should be careful this time to give us men who cannot be bribed.

If the Council wants any proof that these men are accepting bribes, THE IDEA stands ready to prove to them the truth of its statements.

Let the Council take notice of these charges and not pass them over, as they have been doing, when any charge has been made in the past, even by city officials themselves.

And let the Council go at the investigation right and not wait until the Car Company has covered up its crooked work.

See editorial elsewhere in this number, concerning the way the Council fails to act and the lack of business in their methods.

THE CITY COUNCIL

AN AWKWARD, CUMBERSOME MACHINE.

High-School Graft.

Sometime ago, Mr. Beck, the Building Inspector, reported to the city Council that the cement work on the High School was not up to specifications. After some time spent in the red tape of councilmanic procedure a Committee got together by appointment and carefully watched the contractor mix his cement, and the contractor, of course, had things going just fine, he'd have been a fool if he had not, and these contractors who do the work for the city are not fools, and so the Committee made its report and wrote Inspector Beck a long letter, intended to exonerate the contractor from the charge of the inspector. You see, when the contractor saw he was caught he simply lived up to specifications at least for the day on which the Committee came. He knew he had to.

By this action is explained why city employees lose inter-

est in their work and do not do their duty. When they do their duty they are not upheld in it.

Suppose you reported to your employer that on Monday you saw his neighbor steal a case of shoes from his shipping room and on Tuesday he sent some one down to watch and told his neighbor he was going to watch him and then found that the thief did not operate on Tuesday, and then came to you and reproved you for reporting on Monday, do you think you'd report the thief if he came again on Wednesday? Well, that's the way our ancient councilmanic committee government works.

Just last week Mr. Beck again reported to the Council under date of September 7th, in reference to the new High School building. *"The floors have been laid, and, in some instances, in a very indifferent and careless manner."*

When this report was read in the Council meeting, one member aroused and asked from his seat: "What's that about 'indifferent and careless manner?'" And the matter looked so warm that no one cared to answer or make further inquiry, and the matter was dropped and the report went to a Committee on Grounds and Buildings, perhaps.

In that report to the Council the Building Inspector also states: "Special attention is called to the report of the City Electrician, which does not certify that the work has been finished according to plans and specifications, as directed by the resolution of your honorable body."

This indicates that the electrical work on the new High School building has been done *contrary* to plans and sp cifications and yet the Council is such a bunglesome machine that perhaps next year, after the contractor has gotten his money and gone they'll have an investigation and do all the wiring over again and you and I will pay the bill. Or, perhaps, the building will burn down from defective wiring, or the floors will fall in from careless work, and the citizens will be asked to fork up some hundred thousands of dollars more, all as a tribute to our worn out form of city government, which encourages grafters and boodlers.

Claims Griffith Shot Him

Can't Have Him Arrested

Charles Dabney, a negro who lives out in East Richmond, claims that on Saturday night, August 14th, about 8:30 o'clock, he was shot in the head by Dikes Griffith who, with his brother, runs a barroom, patronized largely by negroes, down on the corner of Grace and Seventeenth streets.

Dr. Collier, who came with the ambulance to the first police station, waited on the negro and sewed up one wound in the back of the negro's head and one on his forehead, where the negro claims the ball came out.

Dabney states that he was ordered out of the bar of Griffith and that he was on his way out when Griffith attacked him, striking him first with his pistol and then shooting him, precipitating him headlong out of the door.

Dabney states that when he was carried to the police station by the police that they went by Griffith's bar and the police refused to arrest Griffith and that later he tried to have a warrant sworn out against Griffith, but the justice would not issue it.

The ambulance surgeon, when seen recently, said that the wounds did not look like bullet wounds. The doctor who has since attended the darkey stated that there was no doubt about the wounds being bullet wounds, and that the darkey was undoubtedly shot.

A remarkable thing about the whole affair is the fact that the daily papers had nothing to say about it. The *News Leader* of the following issue, Monday, has accounts of three ambulance calls, but does not mention this one, although the negro was attended in the police station itself. It is very significant that the negro, dangerously and seriously wounded, was arrested, but no one was arrested as his assailant, although the affair occurred in the section where police are most needed, and near the very police station itself and near a nest of as vile a lot of dives as ever cursed a city. If

a man can be shot in this section and his assailant go unmolested, then surely there is not ample "police protection" here for a judge to grant licenses to bars.

Here it is, one month after the negro was shot, and it not only appears that no one has been arrested, but although the negro has made repeated attempts to have a warrant issued, he not only has not gotten it, but, from his statement, it appears that the police and the surgeon and the justice of the peace have all aided in shielding the man whom he claims shot him, and he has to appeal to THE IDEA to help him get justice.

It may throw some light on the question to know that these Griffith brothers run in connection with their saloon a large policy game, and that the other brother, who owns part of the bar, is also the same Griffith who owns together with Clyde Saunders, the big stock of race horses at Acca Stock Farm. This Griffith is commonly known as the Policy King of Richmond, and it has been repeatedly charged that his policy employees were protected by the police department.

Certain it is that until THE IDEA started its fight here last spring almost no arrests were being made, and it took the most incriminating kind of evidence, and lots of it, to convict in justice Crutchfield's court.

Very recently a negro was arrested with his policy paraphernalia in his hands, and yet, Justice John let the negro go free, although the evidence of his work was captured and brought into court.

Richmond will still have corrupt politics as long as it permits these low dives on 17th and 18th streets to exist.

Hardly a day passes in which a bunch of immoral women and gambling men are not arrested from this quarter and hauled into court for disorderly conduct or selling liquor or cocaine or gambling.

This is Richmond's hot-bed for criminals and it could not exist without these base bar rooms thriving in every direction.

FOR THE MAYOR AND POLICE BOARD.

"It is a fundamental principle in our government, that no individual, whether in office or out of office, is above the

law. In this our safety consists." J. McLean, in Kendall vs. States, 3 Howard, 792.

A CORRECTION.

In our last number an error was made in the article concerning Mr. Bolling. The statement was made that Mr. Pollock voted to retain Mr. Bolling, and, as one of the ring, cracked the ring whip over others to get them in line for Mr. Bolling. As soon as we learned the mistake we hastened to correct it, and wrote Mr. Pollock a note, regretting that we had been misinformed and stating that we would make the correction in this number. Hence, this article.

To err is human, and, though THE IDEA is extremely careful still it is on the firing line, and from its position has to run the risks of battle and bear the burden of its mistakes, which are inevitable in all publications.

THE SAUNDERS' SUIT

J. J. Redmond, in the 2nd chapter of "Fifty Years After," just out, has the following:

"I see Saunders is suing the Williams Printing Company and Yoder for $20,000, so here is another chance for him to institute another suit. He can't scare me with that kind of a bluff. If he is going to sue everybody that slanders (?) him, we will have to institute a new court in the city. When this suit comes to trial, I intend to see who will be on the jury, whether it will be Clyde Saunders' fakers, or Richmond gentlemen.

If Yoder owes him $20,000, I owe him $20,000,000; so if he gets all this money at one time, he won't need any more wood-ticket printing, even if it did pay him 1,000 per cent. profit."

THE FAIRMOUNT MESS

If you want to see a genuine, unadulterated, outright mess, just go out and look at the grading blunders on 20th, 21st, 22nd, 23rd and adjacent streets.

You have already learned that the city engineer's blunders have cost the city about $2,000 in this section.

If one carefully goes over that section he will be led to the conclusion that the real loss, in unnecessary work, to the city, is vastly more than that amount. The work ordered to be done, *even according to the engineer's corrected figures,* is about two-thirds unnecessary. Fairmount would be better off today if only about 3 feet of cutting had been done on 22nd street, where the city engineer ordered a cut of about seven feet.

If a three foot cut had been made here and the corresponding cutting and grading had been done in other sections, then the values of property would not be so diminished and the city would not be liable to so many suits. As it is, you'll find a man's property left eight or ten feet above the street, and, as it is at the corner of 22nd street, the tenants have left and the owner can not rent, because the city has made the property undesirable. Now if it were necessary for the good of the whole section to hurt one property, it would be a different matter, but such is not the case. On the other hand, the work as a whole; was two-thirds unnecessary, and before the city is through with it, it will have cost the citizens many thousands more in damage suits and lawyers' fees and retaining wall and fences.

The women especially, in this section are mad, and have a right to be. Their yards and fences and walks are ruined and they have to contend with mud and water and lack of car service because the city failed to establish a grade for the Car Company, thus delaying their work and making the patrons of the company transfer about two blocks over the mud holes on 22nd street.

It should also be borne in mind that excavation by itself is a very small part of the expense of fixing up this section. It is worth while to remember that the citizens have paid for five separate and distinct surveys along some of these streets.

Then there is the question of lowering water mains. A twelve-inch main was laid here in 1908, after the grade had been established, and yet it was found necessary to excavate, and lower this main this year, thus entailing a double expense on the citizens.

On 20th street, gas and water mains have been lowered three separate times.

As we go to press, it has just developed, at the meeting of the committee of investigation, that the contractor, Mr. Clay, claims that the cost to the city of the engineering blunders in Fairmount, amount to about $4,000, instead of less than $500, as estimated by the engineers department.

Remember, that Mr. Bolling is City Engineer, and is responsible for these blunders.

Everybody makes mistakes, but the point about Mr. Bolling's mistakes is that they are not checked up and discovered until very costly work has been done in error.

We wonder what the council will promote him to this time.

THE ALVEY CASE.

What has become of the fellow who first informed the city that there was fraud in the delivery of grain? In the various investigations, why can not the city call on her informer instead of letting the cases fall through because of inability to get the negro driver's testimony.

An ordinance has finally gotten through the council appropriating the necessary funds for an investigation. Now let the council get at the bottom of the matter and sift out the real thief.

MILLS' COMMITTEE.

The Idea for the third time, calls on Mr. Mills, chairman of the Water Committee of the council, to show the letter offering a rebate of $1,000.

The Idea charges that the letter was in the shape of a bribe, and Mr. Mills' failure to show it confirms that charge.

Still, The Idea, speaking for the people, demands of the committee that that letter be produced. Its the public's property. Let the people see their own.

Let not Mr. Mills think he can ignore The Idea. Twenty thousand people each week read The Idea, and they are the twenty thousand people that really rule Richmond.

If Mr. Mills is so short sighted as to ignore The Idea now, then let him prepare for an accounting at the polls at next election time.

Councilmen are elected next year, and The Idea is watching the record of each man and will have much to say as election time draws near.

Although it is said that every city employee, urged by the office-helder's trust, is a walking delegate for Morgan Mills, still The Idea's influences will be felt to his undoing, for men more powerful than he have already gone down before the onslaughts of the truth, as told by this little affair.

Saunders and Leaman are gone. It's Pollock and Mills next.

FOR THE MAYOR AND POLICE JUSTICE

It is high time for thoughtful people in this country to wake up to the fact that law-breaking in our greatest cities is to an appalling extent a safe and profitable occupation. Spreading cloud-like and fraught with menace, it operates primarily by influencing the members of our police forces and, to a greater and far uglier extent, by the appointment and consequent ownership of police magistrates, even of higher tribunes of law and order, who carefully see that law breakers identified with the forces of plunder are immune from punishment.

But not least among the causes of our lawlessness is the laxity of judges in the lower courts. If the judges would enforce the laws rigidly and not rattle around splitting hairs

and dodging every time they themselves disapprove of written laws, either undue lawlessness would cease or many laws would be changed.

Judges fail to see that the laws are orders from the people which they, as judges, are employed and assigned to enforce and obey. That our judges so often forget or ignore this while indulging in fine-spun theories and the hair-splitting and juggling of words, is a deplorable, cancerous evil on our body politic.

What bearing has a crooked or supine or incompetent judiciary upon the inefficiency of the police? It is the very root of the police problem.

If the police magistrate is a known politician, a crook or a thug, cases of which are entirely too frequent, naturally the alien judges the nation by him. If the alien accepts (for it is promptly offered nine times out of ten), the help of a district political leader, or if he pays for leniency—and *innocent or guilty the chance to do so will be offered him*—how can our country grow anything but lawless? *Rigid enforcement of the law* by the criminal courts and the impartial infliction of penalties will do more to wipe out crime in our cities than can be accomplished by any other single agency.

It is notorious that some police magistrates can be bought by crooks and are bought and owned at the disposition of the local political machine wheresoever it may be.

Other police magistrates are financially honest, but politically dishonest. Those who draw down the heaviest condemnation temper their insolence with such cunning as to render it very difficult to disgrace and oust them upon evidence.

The above is clipped from an article in this month's issue of Hampton's Magazine, concerning graft in New York.

It sounds so much like Richmond that one would think the writer had Richmond in mind.

She—What's better than an Idea?
He—You, dear!
She—Seriously, can you tell?
He—I give it up.
She—Two of them, of course. Get The Idea?

A GREAT CALAMITY.

HIGHER PRICES FOR EVERYTHING.

Senator Gore, of Oklahoma, in discussing the high tariff bill just enacted by congress, said in Washington, August 5th.:

"The people of this country will not know whether these duties are higher or lower. They will not consult this law to learn the changes that have been made. But, at the end of each month, when they consult their bills they will see what Congress has done. They will find higher prices for everything they consume. I look forward to a veritable saturnalia of extortion. I predict there will be no lowering of prices."

The bill would not promote commerce, he declared.

"I would not put the American eagle in a cage and then wonder why he did not fly away to foreign markets," he said, during his vigorous denunciation of the measure.

Press dispatches from Bristol tell of an address by Gov. Folk, of Missouri, which should be read with interest by every Richmonder.

We copy the following from the Journal of September 7th:

HONEST VOTERS RESPONSIBLE.

THEY COULD REMEDY EXISTING CONDITIONS IN CITIES, SAYS FOLK.

Bristol, Va., Sept. 7.—That the honest voters of the badly governed cities are responsible for the conditions now existing, and that they could easily have a government of which they would be proud, by asserting themselves, was the statement of ex-Governor Joseph W. Folk, of Missouri, at the Bristol Chautauqua Saturday night.

"The honest voters are passive, while the vicious element is active and vociferous," said the former prosecutor of the St. Louis gamblers and boodlers. "It is the plain duty of every honest citizen to take an active interest in affairs of government. He should see to it that only honest men are elected to office and should exert an influence for the right in the government of his city, State and the nation. This alone will assure the permanency of the American republic. Rome had the Justinian code—the most perfect system of laws ever

devised by man, but she decayed, because public sentiment did not support them. These laws, so perfect that they are a model for lawmakers to this day, were powerless to correct the corruption that sprang up in that empire."

Governor Folk made an appeal to the honest voters to assert themselves for good government, declaring that they could have it. He showed the power of an awakened public conscience, saying that the great reforms in San Francisco could have been accomplished years before they were had the public asserted itself.

"There are no necessary evils in government," continued Governor Folk. "The officeholder who accepts a bribe in one way or another is a thief and should be driven from office and scourged by public sentiment and the law." Some of the so-called blue laws, Governor Folk says, should be enforced, adding that they would do so much to elevate the governmental system of this country.

HELP!

A spirit of reform, in the Old Dominion, is reaching after better things. Men, women and babies are setting the crooked straight, exonerating the old and unsightly, cleaning house and reaching after improved conditions. In cure of sores and insanitary spots, we are building better houses, planting trees and literally mending our ways. Working singly and often without system, we tend ever towards co-operation, organizing unconsciously and applying as we learn them, the arts of division and devolution. Along lines of construction and repair, The Idea finds ever its scope and opportunity. Joining with other busy folks, it helps to hold aloft the banner of civic reform and betterment. We are not better or braver or wider or broader, than others, but just only moved of the impulse to speak out, that building as we go and seeking aid of all, The Idea may be strengthened with the strength of all true men, to the benefit of our common cause, that clean thinking and right-doing may ever be cherished among us and the fire of truth kept ever ablaze and aloft.

Grafters and grabbers must be hunted out.

Help!

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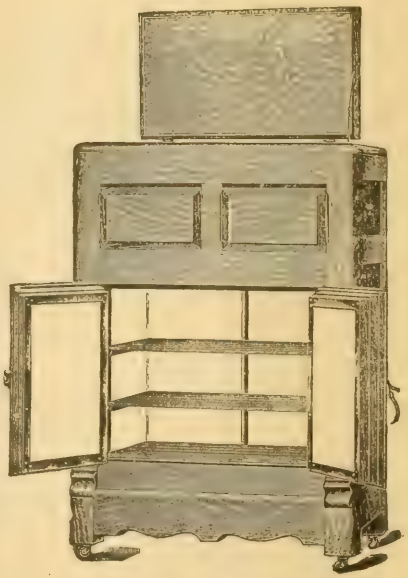
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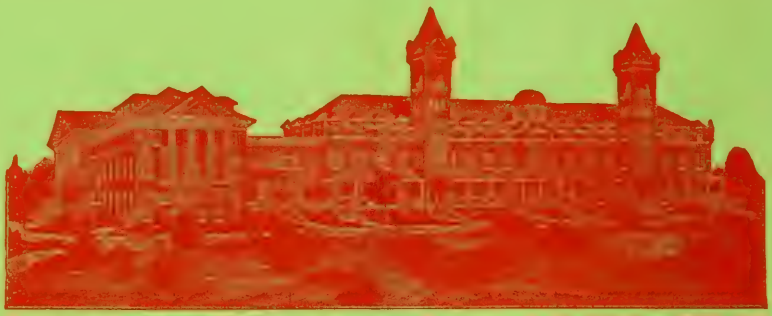
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THE IDEA

A SIGN OF THE TIMES

Vol. III Sept. 25, 1909 No. 17

$2.00 A YEAR

CONTENTS:

"THE WAY TO HELL"
MAYOR RICHARDSON
CHIEF WERNER
ENGINEER BOLLING
SUNDAY LAWS
POLICE AND CRIME
THE WEST END

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THE IDEA

A Sign of the Times

VOL. III SEPTEMBER 25, 1909 No. 17

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THE WAY TO HELL

A Sermonette for the Mayor

On last Sunday night Dr. McDaniel, of the First Baptist church, preached a sermon on "The Evils of the City," and read as text the seventh chapter of Proverbs, in which is described the ways of the harlot.

The gifted pastor used the occasion to warn the young men of the dangers of the social evil and to suggest to the police that they carry home young men who frequented the red light section of Richmond. The preacher stated a fact well known to Richmond men, that these dives are patronized by very young men and boys, often in knee pants, and urged that the police should break this up by the above mentioned method.

THE IDEA is of the opinion that the sermon, which, by the way, was a very fine and instructive and helpful discourse, did not by any means get at the root of the evil. The laws of the State have put in the hands of the Mayor, whom they make the head of the police department, a most efficient remedy for this notorious evil.

Section 3790 of the Code says that the keepers of such

houses "*shall be confined in jail* not exceeding one year and fined not exceeding two hundred dollars." The Mayor takes an oath to see to it that this law is enforced by the police and the Code gives the police broad power by saying: "It shall be the duty of the police to apprehend all persons whom they have cause to suspect of having violated or intend to violate any law of the State."

It is thus seen that these places exist in absolute defiance of the law, and THE IDEA charges that these houses of ill fame exist with the connivance and protection of the Mayor and the police force, for they not only violate their oaths in refusing to enforce the law but they go further and keep a register of all the occupants of these houses and keep pictures of each and every woman or girl who thus gives over her body to a life of shame and law violation, and it is stated that Major Werner, the Chief of Police, has in his office the record of 102 of these houses containing hundreds of girls and women, all duly recognized by the authorities, and thus practically licensed to do boldly what the law says they shall not do at all on penalty of jail sentence.

Just think of it, the sworn officers of the law becoming party to the crime of illegal lewdness by giving common women immunity from the law on condition that they register and be photographed and perhaps other conditions.

Solomon said, "Her house is the way to hell." The Mayor and police says we'll protect and control these "ways to hell" and encourage the young men and boys to go there by assuring them that we won't worry them by enforcing the law and arresting them for the *many* crimes they commit when they patronize them. They also permit them to sell beer and whiskey in these places on Sunday without any fear of molestation.

THE IDEA contends that it is of very little avail for a preacher to preach to the young men to keep away from such places when the sworn officers of the law take the exactly opposite course and, by their acts, invite the men to violate not only the laws of the State, but the laws of decency and morality and sanity and chastity and ordinary common sense.

Is Mayor Richardson right when he says it is wise to control and supervise this "necessary evil," or was Solomon right when he said "Her house is the way to hell."

The parents of Richmond need not wonder why their precepts to their sons are of little weight when they find the boys out all night forming habits of lewdness and debauchery and crime if they will but face the fact that their laws are being ignored by the men they put in office and made swear to enforce them.

It matters not how powerful and good the preacher is, his discourses can have little effect if aimed at the effect instead of at the cause of the evil—namely, the violation of their oaths on the part of the elected *servants* of the people.

Richmond cannot hope to improve until there is a wholesome respect for the law on the part of those who are sworn to enforce the law.

How can Richmond citizens be expected to believe in the sacredness of the law or the permanency of their institutions if the very instruments and arms of the law openly and flagrantly ignore that law. This is a tendency towards anarchy; this is a sowing the wind and must mean a reaping of the whirlwind, which is already in harvest, and which will be apparent to any one who asks any reputable physician how many men and women come to him with venereal diseases, *legally* obtained.

The Idea regards this subject as perhaps the most important of all the issues which confront the people, still it does not like to handle so delicate and offensive question. It does, however, become necessary for every individual, as well as every paper or every community to face delicate and embarrassing situations and to clean up dirty places.

But The Idea would much prefer the disagreeableness of cleansing and eradicating an evil to the offence of permitting that evil to grow and corrupt and insult all its sense of right and its idea of purity.

When the time comes to do a piece of duty let no man be so base a coward as to shirk that duty because forsooth it is disagreeable. "A stitch in time saves nine." Attention to

the festering sore now may later save the body from a loathsome disease. And he who objects to THE IDEA tackling so important a subject in this way, because it is offensive, is a coward and is unworthy of his citizenship.

THE REMEDY.

A LAW AND ORDER LEAGUE.

The remedy for the gross wrongs, done in the name of law in Richmond, can be found soonest in the organization of a Law Enforcement League. The citizens are becoming aroused more and more each day to a realization of who is responsible for the gross wrongs of their city.

A rapidly increasing public sentiment is discernable all over the city.

Pastor Jones, of the Fulton Baptist church, preached on Sunday from the text, "Is a young man safe in Fulton?" and the people of this section are arousing to a knowledge of the responsibility for lack of law enforcement in that section of the city. From all over the city word is coming to us that the people are realizing, as never before, that they are being betrayed by their servants, and a great moral wave is spreading throughout the length and breadth of the community —from Highland Park to Forest Hill and from Westhampton to Seven Pines.

It takes no prophet to see that, when this community becomes once thoroughly aroused by the disclosures of THE IDEA there will be an upheaval which shall shake the powers of evil from their high positions and cleanse for a time from the political and social life those human parasites who live off the labors of others to the degradation of the city and their own ultimate destruction.

Organization alone is lacking to bring to a focus the desires of the people and wise will that man be who shall take the tide at its flood and ride on the wave of popular approval to a position of public trust and usefulness.

THE IDEA calls on Richmond's Christian manhood to produce a leader worthy of the occasion.

The Idea calls on the sturdy citizenship of Richmond to organize its forces in a league of law enforcement and it will find that but slight skirmishing will reveal the utter weakness and discomfiture of the forces of evil, and the stupendous fact that proud and honorable old Richmond, one of the most moral and thoroughly Christian and high-toned cities in the nation, has been politically run by a lot of rascals and thieves and thugs and incompetents, despite the fact that many most excellent men are in its councilmanic bodies and its administrative offices.

YON YONSON

This morning, September 21st, there died in Minnesota the universally beloved Governor of that State, John A. Johnson—died before his time—died in what many thought to be but the beginning of a successful career of national usefulness.

He should have died hereafter.

America needed John Johnson.

America to-day is weeping for John Johnson.

He was America's best type of American democracy.

John, the child of the new world—Yon, with the best traits of the old world—heredity and environment made him America's foremost Democrat, America's kindliest son.

We weep to-day for Yon Yonson, the washerwoman's child; we weep to-day for John Johnson, the nobleman of Minnesota.

"He should have died hereafter."

MORGAN MILLS.

Morgan Mills is regarded by every one familiar with Richmond's political affairs for several years past as being one of the slickest and shrewdest politicians in the State. We hope to complete in time for our next number an article concerning Mr. Mills' connection with public life and would be glad to get

any other accurate information to supplement what we already have. Let us hear from those who would help themselves by putting out of office such men as Morgan Mills.

Have you noticed that Morgan Mills' committee (the water committee) has just asked for $20,000 for work which the engineer now says can be done with about $5,000?

"It's strange. It's passing strange." And THE IDEA is liable to tell on somebody.

THE POLICE AND CRIME

Is There Hush Money?

More than a year ago the Rev. Tilden Sherer, pastor of the Presbyterian church on Nineteenth street, between Main and Franklin, complained to the chief of police of a house of ill fame on the other side of the street opposite the church building.

The chief of police promised to have it removed and went to see the occupants to effect the removal. Later he saw the pastor of the church and told him he had ordered the parties to move out and that the proprietress had demanded to know on what evidence and by what process he would evict her and he said that he had replied that if necessary he, the chief, would appear against her, for he not only had evidence as chief of police of the nature of her house, but as a policeman had been on that beat.

Matters drifted on, however, and nothing was done except to make threats, until a year later the pastor determined again that he would break up the disgraceful affair in such close proximity to his church door and called on the chief again to have the place broken up.

Again the chief gave moving orders and this time the orders were, apparently, obeyed, for the parties moved out and a rent

notice was posted for a few days, after which the house was again occupied, but this time by a more disorderly crowd than before.

It can thus be seen that there is some power somewhere that protects the criminals in Richmond and enables them not only to violate laws with impunity and with the full knowledge and consent of the police and the chief of police, but to do so in the face of protests from citizens and churches and in the conspicuous places where women and children congregate to worship God.

Now, The Idea does not believe that these conditions, which exist, are chargeable to Major Werner alone. They could not, and would not exist if they were not sanctioned by that power behind the chief which, though contrary to law, does actually dominate the doings of the police force in Richmond. We believe that without the evil influence of this board Major Werner would act quicker under pressure of public demand and sentiment. At times he seems to be powerless, and however good his intentions may be he does not carry out his oath of office.

Out in St. Louis a few years ago an investigation into the evils of the red light district brought out this astounding fact. The books of these houses of ill repute showed such entries as this:

Mayor Ames, $500.00,

And on each month there were similar entries, showing that these criminals paid for protection from those whose duty it was to prohibit their operations.

In Richmond there is no suggestion that these people pay anything to the Mayor, yet conditions so similar to those of these other cities do exist and these criminals are so carefully protected and registered that the suspicion is already becoming prevalent here that somebody gets a rake-off.

Let those who take it on themselves to protect these law violators from those who have sworn to bring them to justice answer to the public belief that there is corruption here.

The Idea would inquire why is it that a policeman is not

upheld when he arrests or attempts to interfere with the business of public prostitution.

Is there any hush money in it for anybody in authority?

WHO DID IT?

An Inquiry into the Responsibility for the Fairmount Blunders

The council investigating committee held a meeting Monday night of this week to examine witnesses in regard to the blunders in the grading of Fairmount, which have cost the city perhaps several thousands of dollars and which will eventually cost the city many thousands more.

(1) From the investigation it appears that in the first place Mr. Hankins, employed by the engineering department as surveyor, made a blunder in lowering a stone used as a bench mark and not notifying Mr. Bowling of the fact of its lowering.

(2) In the second place, Mr. Todd, of the engineering department, admitted having used this lowered stone as a basis in giving grades to the contractor, Mr. Clay, and not checking up his work until about a month after, when the grading in seven blocks had been done. (Using this stone, without suspecting an error, was very natural, because it had not fallen down but had been replaced in its lower position and bore no evidence of having been moved from its original position.) The grave mistake came in not checking over work until too late to save the city.

(3) Mr. Clay, the contractor, admitted that he had graded certain streets when he had orders from Mr. Todd, engineer in charge, not to do so. Mr. Todd says he reported this to Engineer Bolling, but Mr. Clay did not even thereafter confine himself to the work ordered to be done.

Now, in regard to the amount of work done in error. The Idea last week noted a discrepancy between the estimates of the engineer's office and of the contractor. The Idea reporter took down the statement of Mr. Richards and this report made Mr. Richards say that Mr. Clay estimated about $4,000 worth of work had been done in error. At the last meeting Mr. Clay took occasion to censure The Idea for making that statement, and he said he did not say that. We would simply state that Mr. Clay was not at the meeting in question and, therefore, has no right to state that The Idea's *report of that meeting* was not correct.

The notes were taken as Mr. Richards made the remark and the memory of the reporter bears him out in that particular. The Idea has, therefore, every reason to believe that its report was correct. If, however, Mr. Richards thinks he did not say that still we think he did—though he did not mean to—because our pen and our memory agree as to what he did say. It is, of course, possible that the reporter heard wrong and that Mr. Richards said 4,000 yards and not $4,000.

Let it be known, though, that Mr. Clay at this last meeting still claimed that he thought that about 3,500 or 4,000 yards had been cut in error, although the engineers claim only some 1,750 yards were cut in error.

In the investigation Mr. Bolling laid stress on the fact that these "sewers were laid in Fairmount before that district was annexed to the city and the engineer's office had nothing to do with conditions growing out of the laying of these pipes," and *The Leader* put this statement in capitals to-day, September 21st, evidently to controvert for the engineer the blame fixed on him by The Idea.

The Idea desires to state that Mr. Clay testified that "the gas main was *lowered twice*" while he was grading the streets *this summer*. Therefore, there was a serious blunder in lowering not low enough in the first place.

Now as to who is to blame. The investigation has thoroughly sustained The Idea in its contention that the engineer's department is incompetent to do the work incumbent upon it.

The testimony shows laxity and lack of proper checks

(1) in not requiring careful reports as to the lowering or changing of bench marks (brought out by Mr. Hankins' admissions); (2) in not requiring the engineer to verify the bench marks by comparing with others *before* giving cross sections for grading from them; and (3) in not seeing to it that the orders of the department were carried out by the contractor in regard to grading *before* grades were given.

This incompetency of the engineer in not exercising the proper supervision over the work of his department is evidently the real cause underlying all these expensive blunders, not only in Fairmount, but in other sections of the city as well.

Now let us state that The Idea has been most favorably impressed with the frankness of the City Engineer and his evident desire to assist the committee in its investigation. He has shown the spirit of a gentleman in every particular that has come under our observation, and The Idea has never made any charges of graft or crookedness against the engineer's department. Our charge is simply this: That the work of the engineer's department is not satisfactory and has been so badly handled that the blunders of this department have cost the city untold thousands of dollars. Week before last The Idea enumerated blunders to the extent of about $80,000. Last night Mr. Clay, the contractor, charged that the City Engineer had filled in a gulley on Thirty-fifth and Marshall at an unnecessary expense to the city of $35,000 or $40,000 more.

The time has come for the citizens to demand of their councilmen that they cease to elect a man to office simply because he is honest and good and popular.

The City Engineer's office is the most important in the gift of the council and the first question to be asked is "Is he capable?" "Is he fit?" "Is he competent to handle this mammoth proposition of looking after the vast and varied affairs of a city so difficultly engineered as Richmond.

It would, of course, be a disagreeable thing for councilmen to displace Mr. Bolling. But councilmen should not let their feelings of friendship influence them in a matter of so grave importance affecting the expenditure of millions and

millions of dollars. Councilmen should lay aside all consideration of personal feeling and elect a man, as a cold business proposition, solely on his merits. They should cease voting their *sentiments* and vote their *reason* instead.

MILLS' COMMITTEE

The Idea, for the *fourth* time, calls on Mr. Mills, chairman of the council water committee, to show the letter offering a rebate of $1,000.

The Idea charges that the letter was in the shape of a bribe and Mr. Mills' failure to show it confirms that charge.

Get busy Mr. Mills. You'll just have to come across finally or prepare for defeat.

The Idea will stand for publicity of all city affairs, and when a committee acts in secret and refuses to show a letter which is the people's public property, then the people know there is something wrong. Men love darkness rather than light because their deeds are evil.

Stores Open On Sunday

Contrary to Law

On no other subject, perhaps, has The Idea received more communications than on that of Sunday observance. Various merchants and other citizens have frequently called attention to the gross laxity of the police force in seeing the violation of the Sunday closing law. On nearly every prominent corner on Main and Broad streets, and in many other places as well, the fruit stores and soda fountains do a thriving business and sell besides soda water drinks anything else that is desired

which they carry. In one block on Broad street three stands are open all day on Sunday and it is claimed that on that day more business is transacted and more money is made than on any other day in the week.

Before the last Legislature met it seems that the courts held that the law was insufficient to break up the offence, so a law was passed at the last session making this a misdemeanor, punishable with a fine of $5 or more for each offence and permitting the judge to "require a recognizance in a penalty of not less than $100 or more than $5,000, with or without security, conditioned that such person shall be of good behavior and especially *to refrain from a repetition of such offence* for a period not exceeding twelve months."

Formerly an offender could break the law, pay the $2 fine, and go to work and sell again on the following Sunday. He might make a hundred dollars and pay his $2 for the privilege and keep up the work. Under the new law, however, "If a person on the Sabbath day (and in law Sabbath and Sunday mean the same) be found laboring at any trade or calling, or employ his apprentices or servants in labor or other business, except in household or other works of necessity or charity, he shall be deemed guilty," etc.

The police, therefore, under the new law *must arrest* and the judge *must fine* for every violation, and the judge now has power to *stop* the practice by requiring a heavy bond to be forfeited on the second offence.

There is, therefore, no excuse for the failure of the police to enforce the law. A pastor of one of the churches recently brought this matter to the attention of the policeman on his beat and told him that if he, a gospel worker, could see these violations *surely* an officer, whose duty it was to look after these things, could see them. The policeman finally admitted that he saw them and yet officially he did not see them. Whereupon the preacher said that if he, the policeman, did not enforce the law he, the preacher, would take the matter over his head and have the law enforced.

This finally made the policeman say that he would do it himself if the preacher would just keep quiet and not take it over his head.

Now the question arises, Why is it that the police do not want to enforce these laws. Is it because they do not want to arrest a man because they have been bribed off by gifts of drink and food? Or is it because the merchant has paid some one higher up in police affairs to keep the police away?

This one thing is certain, that the police don't ever have to pay for drinks at these places, or for pies and the like, and in many instances when a policeman has offered to pay the proprietor has refused to take his money. The acceptance of a drink or a pie by a policeman constitutes a bribe and the offender is subject to a heavy fine and dismissal from the force and yet it is done all over Richmond. Beer and whiskey are likewise given to policemen and this accounts for the attitude of some policemen towards the bars of Richmond.

Now The Idea in its campaign for law enforcement intends to see to it that these laws concerning Sunday closing are enforced. These laws are so flagrantly ignored that even drug stores, which do not have fountains, sell candies and cigars and other articles and things which are not medicines on Sunday.

Now be it remembered that this law is not a "blue" law, a law which is out of date and perhaps should be amended or ignored, but was passed by the last Legislature and is about as live a law as there is on the statute books.

In these places on Sunday congregate many young men and boys and talk and smoke and tell smutty jokes while their parents think they are at Sunday school or church. Their characters are being torn down instead of being built up, all because in Richmond officers of the law think they are above the law.

BOYS!

In the future The Idea will be put on sale Saturday mornings at 6 o'clock, so that school boys may have an opportunity to sell them. More boys are wanted, especially in the West End. Boys in that section may get Ideas to sell from the Model News Company on West Broad street.

Any accurate information concerning the official deeds of certain councilmen of evil reputation will be appreciated by THE IDEA. We want information concerning one or two especially slick ones for an article now being prepared. These fellows must be exposed.

In the revenues of the wicked is trouble—*Solomon the Wise.*

THE MAYOR'S DUTY.

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Glen Allen

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Glen Allen is the seat of Forest Lodge, which is a spacious mansion of a hundred rooms, furnished and equipped throughout, and situated in a beautiful Park fronting the railway station.

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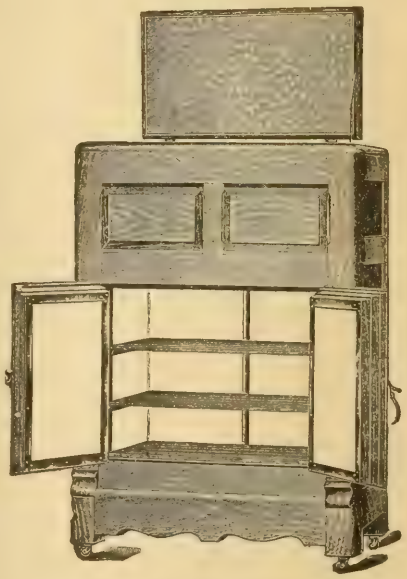
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THE IDEA

A SIGN OF THE TIMES

Vol. III Oct. 2, 1909 No. 18

$2.00 A YEAR

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THE IDEA

A Sign of the Times

VOL. III OCTOBER 2, 1909 No. 18

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POLICE COURT FINES

Loose Methods

THE IDEA has been looking into the methods of the police court in fining and bonding prisoners and has discovered a startling condition of affairs.

It appears that when a rule is ordered to be issued for the appearance of a party there is no checking up afterwards to see that the rule is ever actually issued. Just recently this was clearly shown in the case of the negro Harris, who did not appear when summoned into court.

The Justice ordered a rule to be issued for him on two occasions and yet he did not see to it that his order was obeyed, and as a result no rule was issued until the clerk of the market made trouble for the authorities, and even then, when the clerk, Captain Sullivan, inquired of Justice John what had become of his rule, the Justice very harshly told the clerk that he had done his part and that he did not want to be bothered any more with the matter. It thus appears that Justice John was

perfectly satisfied to let the matter drop and have his rules ignored. From this it can be seen that rules are ordered with no intent that they shall be served, and when it happens twice in the same month with the same negro, Harris, represented by the same lawyer, Pollock, then it looks extremely significant.

When such a thing happens the people know that there is a loop hole somewhere for the escape from justice of those who are "on the inside."

The same laxity is evident also in the fining of prisoners.

If a prisoner is fined who stands in with the proper authorities he may simply fail to pay up and walk out. Likewise, when security is required, if the prisoner enjoys the protection of those in authority he is not required to give security, but simply walks away without obeying the mandates of the court and the court closes its eyes and permits the rascal to "pursue the even tenor of his way."

THE IDEA would like to enquire where councilmen entertained their Baltimore opponents on the night after the recent baseball game between the teams of the two city councils? Don't all speak at once.

LOBBYING AND WIRE PULLING IN THE COUNCIL

Pollock and Leaman Delighted

At the council meeting last week the election of a clerk for the Second Market came up, and from the very beginning it was evident that the result was between Messrs. Garrison and Johnston.

Now, THE IDEA knows very little of the comparative merits of these two contestants, but THE IDEA does know that as soon as the skirmishing was over and these candidates with small

followings had been dropped from the balloting, then on word from Mr. Pollock, who is the recognized leader of the ring crowd in the council, and who left his seat to pass along "instructions" to his men, these followers of Pollock and the ring immediately changed their votes to Johnston and Johnston's election was assured. Now, THE IDEA does not know anything about the fitness of Mr. Johnston for the position, except that suspicion of unfitness will always attach to those for whom the ring does its work. A man is known by the company he keeps in politics as well as elsewhere.

A very significant fact concerning the election is this: Mr. Leaman, whose influence with the ring is universally recognized, was on the floor of the council chamber and "within the railing" all the time during the election. This fact would be especially significant to the people of Richmond who believe in pure elections if they could have seen the delighted expression on Mr. Leaman's face when the vote was announced. When Pollock and Leaman are pleased it's high time the people were doing some thinking for themselves.

THE FAIRMOUNT INVESTIGATION

Councilmen Condemned

At the meeting of the council investigating committee last week it was remarked on by several citizens present how several of the councilmen who were present as spectators showed their attitude towards the investigation by their sneers and remarks intended to belittle the work done by Mr. Richards, who, as chairman, was leading the investigation.

These councilmen be it said to their shame, helped to thwart the efforts of the committee by their unkindly attitude and presence on that occasion, and it appeared to outsiders that they did not want to see this matter of blundering in Fairmount investigated.

Mr. Richards would have been entirely right if he had cleared the room of those city councilmen whose presence was hurting the efficiency of his inquiry. Mr. Richards deserves the highest praise for the manner in which he conducted the inquiry. Those who tried to belittle his efforts deserve the censure of all good citizens.

This committee found Mr. Todd, an assistant in the Engineer's office, who resigned during the investigation, guilty of inexcusable carelessness in not checking up his work.

As The Idea contended during the investigation, the Engineer of the city is the only one who can be regarded as responsible for the work done under him. The City Engineer should be called to account for not properly looking after the affairs of his department and thus preventing any such serious blunder as was caused in Fairmount.

WHAT WILL THE CITY PAY?

Although the committee from their report "found that approximately there had been 3,665 cubic yards excavated below the true grade" and that "the loss to the city, at contract price (25 cents per cubic yard), would be $916.25 for error committed," still it is due the Engineer's Department to state that even if Mr. Clay, the contractor, did excavate 3,665 yards too much, still the city should not be required to pay for any more than the amount as shown by the engineer's marks on the grade-posts. If the contractor cut deeper than the marks indicated it is not up to the city to pay him for it, and Mr. Clay admitted on the stand that he did cut before he was ordered so to do by the Engineer. The city must pay for errors of its employees, but should not pay for errors of contractors.

OAT INVESTIGATION

On the 28th ultimo the street committee ordered to be summoned before that committee on Monday night, the 11th of October, all parties who could give any information in regard

to the theft of grain from the city. It is learned that the committee will have before them the party or parties who originally discovered the thefts and reported them to the city. The testimony of these parties should be of great value in the investigation. For some unknown reason (and it looks crooked to The Idea) these parties were never summoned to appear before the police court to testify against the negro driver or Mr. Alvey in the first place, and it looks like it was through a desire on somebody's part to make a scapegoat of the negro and hush the whole matter up before going to the bottom of it.

"I am not bound to win, but I am bound to be true. I am not bound to succeed, but I am bound to live up to what light I have. I must stand with anybody that stands high—stand with him while he is right, and part with him when he goes wrong."

Morgan Mills Committee

The Idea has repeatedly in the last month or so publicly called on Morgan Mills' committee to show the letter which offered a rebate of $1,000 on a $14,550 contract.

Although Mr. Mills saw fit to answer in *The Times-Dispatch* certain criticisms concerning that transaction, still he did not show the letter or explain to the satisfaction of the public how it was that the minutes of the meeting made no mention of that letter and why no private citizen ever heard from it until the contracting concern refused to allow the $1,000 rebate.

The Idea reporter was to-day, September 28th, shown by Superintendent Davis, of the Water Department, what purports to be a copy of the letter in question.

That copy, while not so worded as to be considered, from its wording, as a direct bribe, is, nevertheless, evidence, considering the facts recently developed, that there is serious

wrong somewhere. The fact that the public was never informed at the time that any such letter existed was ample justification of the belief that something was wrong, and that belief has been continually confirmed by the failure of the committee to come out with the letter. The letter stated that the contractors found that the cost could be reduced some $400 by "eliminating all cost to us of testing (pumps) after same have started up and are in successful operation" and by other considerations, and then offered to put in the plant for $13.550, which was $1,000 less than the price quoted in their sealed bid. Now let this be clearly understood:

(1) That this letter was received *before* the contract was awarded.

(2) That the contract was awarded to this concern at the higher price—$14,550.

(3) That the letter was never made public or mentioned in the minutes of the meeting.

(4) That there was a bid considerably lower than the one which got the job; and,

(5) That the citizens never heard of the $1,000 rebate until the contractors refused to allow it.

The Idea, therefore, would reiterate what it said in the beginning of the matter: "As this was the business of the public the public should have been informed of any transaction made in their name. No committee has any legal or moral right to take any secret action, especially when such action involves the public's money. Why was not this $1,000 rebate mentioned in the minutes?

"When public matters are concealed the public has a right to suspect something crooked."

MORGAN MILLS HIMSELF.

It may throw some light on the reasons why certain members of the council are so anxious not only that the city shall not make any change in its form of government, but also that they shall be continued in office, to consider wherein councilmen benefit by their offices.

The Idea proposes to show from time to time how different councilmen reap large benefit by reason of their office.

In this number two reasons will be given why Mr. Mills is profited by his position as councilman.

In the first place let it be known that Mr. Mills is agent for the manufacturers of the "Newton traps." These Newton traps are specified in the city ordinances to be used in plumbing in the city of Richmond.

This ordinance is therefore, the means of Mr. Mills making much money, for it is of very much financial interest to Mr. Mills when the concern he represents has large sales in his community. Now, the spirit and the letter of the law has always opposed and forbidden councilmen from reaping benefits by reason of their position.

Yet here we find Mr. Mills directly and financially interested in the sale of traps, the sale of which is almost wholly affected by city laws which he, as councilman, helps to make.

In the second place. Some time ago Mr. Mills introduced a resolution for the purchase of a tract of land in Fairmount to be used as a park, and the resolution carried with it a certain large appropriation for the purpose. On investigation it was found that—

(1) The land was not suited for a park.

(2) The land was owned by a relative of Mr. Mills; and,

(3) The actual value of the land was a very small proportion of the amount which Mr. Mills sought to have appropriated.

A POLITICIAN'S BIOGRAPHY.

Weight, 10 pounds.
Cootsey, Tootsey.
Baby boy.
Mamma's darling.
Papa's little man.
Jimmy.
Jim.
James.
Jimmy the kid.
Young Mr. Brown.
James Brown.
Mr. James Brown.

Clerk of Election Brown.
Committeeman Brown.
Alderman Brown.
The Hon. J. M. Brown.
James Matthew Brown.
Brown.
Jim Brown.
Jimmie Brown.
'Steenth Ward Jimmie.
Jimmie the bum.
Jim.
Whiskey Jim.
Old Soak.
Cell 99.
Coroner's office—"Unidentified."

—*Nevada Exchange.*

TWO MAYORS

Which is Right

Mayor Joyner, of Atlanta, Ga.: "Certainly, the city government of Atlanta will enforce whatever laws are passed by the Legislature for the government of the cities of Georgia."

Mayor Richardson, of Richmond, Va.: An executive officer should ignore the law passed by the Legislature for the government of the cities of Virginia if 'in his opinion' it would be unwise to enforce it

THE IDEA holds that the Mayor of Atlanta is exactly right and the Mayor of Richmond exactly wrong. Both Mayors are sworn to enforce all the State laws. The Mayor of Atlanta says he'll live up to his oath. The Mayor of Richmond says he won't.

THE IDEA has shown Mayor Richardson that State laws are continually violated with the sanction of his police department and he has refused to correct the evil. He knows of the red-

light evil. He knows of the whiskey-selling-on-Sunday evil in the red light district, and he says he'll "control," but won't pay any attention to the State law which demands that he suppress it.

BOYS MAKE MONEY

IDEA boys are making as high as three dollars a week selling the paper on Saturdays. The West End has not yet been covered by the boys and parents desiring their boys to learn to earn their own living could do well to send them to one of the three places mentioned below to sell IDEAS on Saturday mornings.

IDEAS will cost the boys 3 cents a copy in advance, but clean copies not sold may be returned at any time up to the Monday following at 6 P. M. Get your boy to canvass in his neighborhood and then get himself a line of regular customers. In this way he will be assured a regular income each week.

We have on hand a few sample copies which will be distributed to those boys who come to THE IDEA office on Monday to get them. These can be used to give away in order to work up a regular route. One energetic boy has worked up a route so large that he has had to give half of it to another boy.

IDEAS will be on sale every Saturday morning at 6 o'clock at

THE IDEA office, 904 Capitol street.

The Model News Company, 517 West Broad street.

The Jefferson Pressing Club, 2225 East Clay.

Boys can also make money by going to the various shops and factories at the Saturday noon hour and at closing time.

A SPORTSMAN

"But, sonny, you can always be a sportsman, whatever you do. A sportsman does things because he likes them, Bobby; for no other reason—not for money, nor to become famous—

not even to win—although all these things may come to him, and it is quite right that he take them and enjoy them. Only he does not do the things for them, but for the pleasure of doing. And a right man does not get pleasure in doing a thing if in any way he takes an unfair advantage. That's being a sportsman, and, after all, that's all I can teach you if we hunt together ten years.

"There's only one other thing that's really important and it isn't necessary if you remember the other things I've told you. It's pretty easy sometimes to do a thing because you see everybody else doing it. Always remember that a true sportsman, in every way, is about the scarcest thing they make—and the finest. So naturally the common run of people don't live up to it. If *you,* not the thinking you, nor even the conscience you, but the way-down-deep-in-your-heart *you* that you can't trick nor lie to—if that *you* is satisfied, it's all right." He turned and grinned humorously at his small companion. "I've nothing but a little income and an old horse and two dogs and a few friends, Bobby. I've lived thirty years in that little place there, and a great many excellent people call me a good-for-nothing old loafer. But I've learned the things I'm telling you now, and I'm just conceited and stuck up enough to think I've made a howling success of it."

The above was clipped from "The Hole in the Cap," which appeared in the August number of *The American Magazine.* We've read it over three or four times and it's worth your reading over. So just go back and read that over—why don't you go on and do it?

The Idea is not published "for money nor to become famous, nor even to win," but because of "the pleasure of doing" a duty, though it oftentimes has its disagreeable side. Its pretty hard sometimes to do it because you see everybody else doing something else. But that *you* is satisfied and "it's all right." And the editor is "just conceited and stuck up enough to think he's made a howling success of it," even if he loses money at it or fails to accomplish what he planned and hoped for.

MR. DAVIS'S DENIAL

Some two weeks ago the papers had long articles charging that the work on the settling basin, which the Superintendent of Water estimated to cost about $20,000, could be done, according to the City Engineer's figures, for about $5,000.

Superintendent Davis, when seen by The Idea reporter, stated that the papers had bungled the whole affair, and that on his statement, in reply to a question, that about $15,000 worth of the work could be put off for the present, the council cut down the appropriation by about that sum. The Idea made mention of this matter in the last number and based its remarks on the newspaper reports of the date of going to press.

The Idea did not mention Mr. Davis, but did censure the water committee for asking for a large appropriation, and while the newspaper report on which our stricture was based was erroneous, still The Idea would continue to censure Mr. Mills' committee for asking for $20,000 when, on inquiry, it is found that it is by no means necessary or wise to expend so much at this time.

A Live Letter From The West End

Richmond, Va., September 15, 1909.

Editor Idea, City:

My Dear Sir—As one of your constant readers and admirers I wish to congratulate you for the manner in which you are enlightening the tax payers of this city as to what becomes of their money after it is paid into the Treasurer's office. One item in particular has startled the people in my section—that of the engineer's department. Now, Mr. Editor, I see by *The Times-Dispatch* that our Engineer wants to build

a driveway from Gamble's Hill Park to Byrd Park, which certainly would cost a pile of my money. I do not object to any improvement that will improve our beautiful city, but I do think that our Engineer could recommend far more important improvements than the driveway. There are streets in the West End of the city, annexed territory, that are in a horrible condition. The tax payers have to keep their windows down day and night to keep the dirt out of their homes; they cannot sit on their porches on account of dust kicked up by passing automobiles. Then we have no sewerage, water, gas or electric lights, nor any other improvement whatever. Conditions are far worse than when we were in the county, and after a short rain when you return to your home at night you grope your way home in the darkness on a two-foot cinder path, and if you are not very careful you will walk out of the path in mud over your shoe tops. These conditions exist west of the Boulevard on Cary street, especially also the cross streets between Cary and Broad streets. The scavenger comes along at night very often before our people go to bed. Then every one in this section has to go to bed or somewhere else besides the front of the house, and still we have the million and half dollars to expend on annexed territory that cannot be spent under eighteen months; paying 4 per cent. on the bonds and receiving 3 per cent. from the banks on the same money. If our City Engineer wants to show the people that he can do things why not recommend to the council the purchasing of an extra hundred mules and carts and put several hundred idle men to work and grade these streets, put in sewerage, water and light for people who are paying for something they are not getting. Then when these necessities are done it will be time enough to build a driveway and annex Manchester.

In conclusion I wish to say that we will mark for slaughter the members of the council from this ward who do not raise their voices to better conditions in this section, and the next set of councilmen that we elect will have to tell us what we may expect of them before we elect them. I hope the people of Richmond will rally to your support and keep THE IDEA alive. I think it would be a grand idea if the people of

this city would start a daily newspaper by popular subscription and get you to edit it. I will head the list, taking $100 worth of stock, and I would take ten times as much if I were able.

If you think it worth your while to publish this you can do so, or any part of it.

Respectfully yours, a suffering tax payer of Clay Ward annexed, CHARLES H. BULL.

Henrico county is now working on the Cary Street Road from the city limits to the Three-Chop Road. Now why don't Mr. Bolling recommend to our council to commence from the city line and put in sewerage, water and light and grade this street on into the city so that when the county finishes its road to the city limits the whole job will be done with. This looks to me more like a business-like proposition than building the roadway above mentioned. C. H. B.,

3224 West Cary street.

Richmond, Va., August 30, 1909.

Editor, "The Idea:"

I would like to call the attenton of your readers to the fact of how well the recent very illuminating disclosures of the infamous rulings of our local courts corroberates the contention of the socialists, that the whole judicial system, in the United States, from the great immaculate nine (?), constituting the Supreme Court, down to the most insignificant corporation tribunal, are, with few exceptions, used as instruments in the hands of the cunning and unscruplous; not for their own protection and aggrandizement alone, but to crush all who dare oppose or thwart them.

And not only are the judiciary corrupted, but all other functions of the machinery of government are being prostituted to the private uses of the financial pirates, who are thereby enriching themselves by despoiling the masses—legally! And in the face of this stupendious fact, the press of our country stands hushed and the pulpit mute.. Why?

Read Socialist literature and find out.

Very truly,

B. M. DUTTON.

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More and more the man of means and leisure is making his home by following the seasons in their courses.

Modern enterprise, the world over, is giving constantly increased thought to the great problems of travel, until now our command of climate is almost equal to that of the swallows.

But America, like Europe, is realizing that a sudden transition between extremes of temperature is not wholesome, and pleasant pausing places are being increasingly called for.

This brings into special notice that great climatic railroad route—the route of health and pleasure which unites the New England States with Florida and the tropics.

In a little while investors and promoters will be looking for a suitable midway locality for the establishment of a relay point, and when they have finished their research they will find that point to be

Glen Allen

VIRGINIA

This charming spot with its improvements is now for sale with the single exception of the publishing house and its immediate surroundings.

Glen Allen is a pleasant country seat—a domain of park and forest, richly wooded yet close to the edge of Twentieth Century activities. It is twelve minutes from Richmond; three hours from Washington, and five and a half days from London.

That Great Short Line which links the railroad systems of the North with those of the South is practically completed; and important results will follow this achievement.

Six up-to-date roads have joined forces in this work, and the bold enterprise will dominate the development of that fertile region which extends from the Atlantic coast to the Valley of the Mississippi.

The point of convergence from the entire South is Richmond; and the point of convergence from the North and West is Washington. Glen Allen is on the short link which unites these two vast systems, and Glen Allen is beyond comparison the most eligible spot on that link for a splendid development.

The place is dotted with pretty villas, and has eight or nine miles of private avenues and shady sequestered lanes. Thousands of travelers pass Glen Allen daily, many of them describing it as the Deer Park, from the herds of half-tamed deer which roam over its ample grounds, and which may be seen from the car windows for a mile or more.

Glen Allen is the seat of Forest Lodge, which is a spacious mansion of a hundred rooms, furnished and equipped throughout, and situated in a beautiful Park fronting the railway station.

A full description will be mailed on request by the owner, CAPTAIN CUSSONS, Glen Allen, Virginia.

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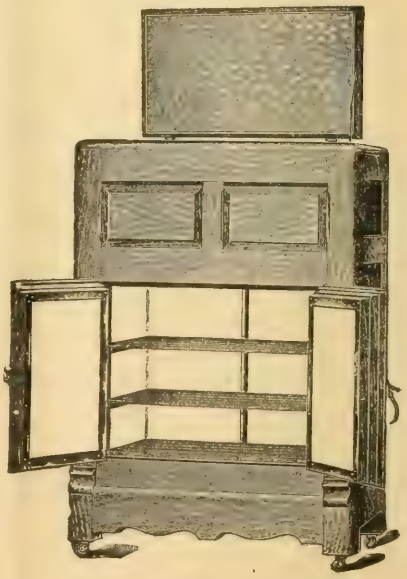
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THE IDEA

A SIGN OF THE TIMES

Vol. III Oct. 9, 1909 No. 19

$2.00 A YEAR

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(WITH PHOTOGRAPHS)
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UNDESIRABLE BUSINESS MEN
"EFFICIENCY IN CITY GOVERNMENT"

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THE IDEA

A Sign of the Times

VOL. III OCTOBER 9, 1909 No. 19

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Published Weekly on Saturday by ADON A. YODER,
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WEAK FOUNDATIONS IN NEW HIGH SCHOOL

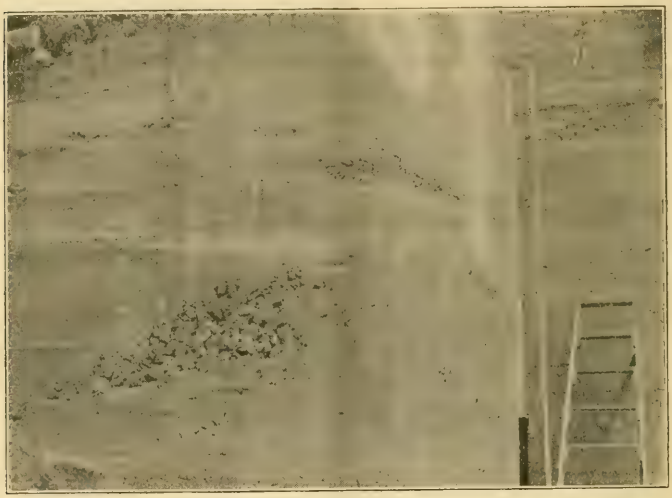
Contractor Guilty

In this number can be seen several cuts showing the weak foundations on which the High School has been built. These cuts are reproductions from photographs taken on October 1st. Cut No. 1 shows a large section of concrete work which has not been laid according to specifications.

In the first place the cut shows a perfect network of holes. This is caused by the failure to put in enough cement. Instead of having a certain per cent. of cement and a certain per cent. of sand and a certain per cent. of gravel or broken stone, the contractor has put in in places almost 100 per cent. of gravel. In some places in these walls there was not enough cement placed to hold the gravel in place, even temporarily, as will be seen in Cut No. 4.

This Cut No. 4 is from a photograph taken from within a room in the basement, looking up and out at the concrete

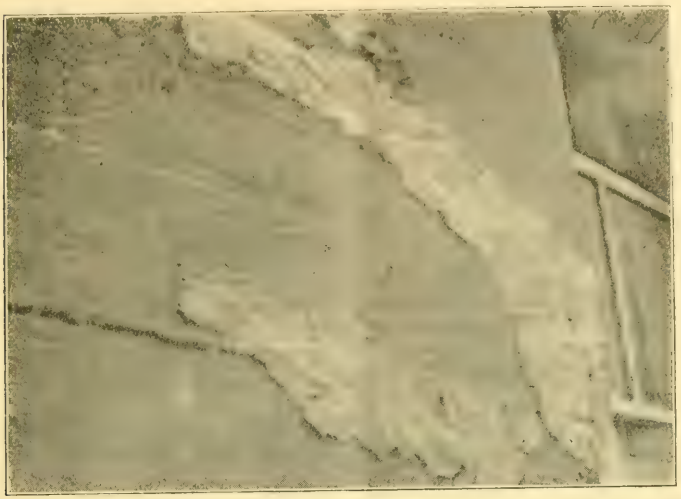
work around the window frame. The arrow points at a place where a section of concrete (?) has fallen away for lack of cement. Two other photos made by the editor, who is green at such work, were spoiled from over-exposure. These showed the doorway leading from the basement hall into the inner court and exposed a section several feet high where almost no cement had gotten in.



No. 1. Showing weak walls due to lack of cement and of proper tamping in the foundation of the New High School.

Cut No. 1 also shows lines of contact between layers of cement which are not horizontal. If the concrete had been properly placed it would show horizontal lines, because it would have been tamped or beaten in. On the other hand it was simply dumped into place and not beaten down, and, therefore, is not compact and solid, as the specifications called for. Even where there is sufficient cement put in it is necessary to tamp the concrete. It is much more necessary to tamp it when the cement is lacking, as it was in many places. As a result of this lack of tamping the walls are very materially weakened. The contractor not only saved in labor by not tamping, but he also saved in materials used, for tamping

would, of course, pack the concrete and thus require more of it than the contractor saw fit to furnish.



No. 2. Showing how the cement has patched up bad flaws.

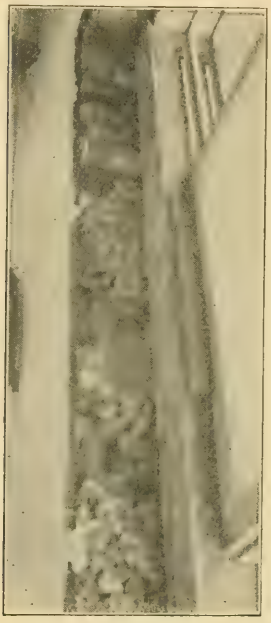
Cut No. 2 shows where patching has been done by mortaring over the bad places so that they would not show from the outside. Many of the worst places were so patched up that the extent of the weakness could not be seen.

Cut No. 3 shows lack of cement in the walls about the windows, as does Cut No. 4. These places are not being repaired, as some of the walls are, because the window frames and plastering will cover the defects here.

Building Inspector Beck reported these weak walls at the time of his being put in control of public buildings as being not up to specifications. At that time the work had been done on a large part of the building. On the remainder, however, the inspector has seen to it that specifications were followed.

The Idea has repeatedly shown up the lax methods of city management of expenditures, whereby the city gets worthless jobs and pays excessive prices for them. It is time that the citizens were demanding in no uncertain tones that

the city's affairs be run on a business-like basis, as are those governed by commission.



No. 3. Showing section of wall at window casing with almost no cement.



No. 4. Showing where stone has fallen out, before building is complete, for lack of proper cement.

Notice in this number an article on The Des Moines Plan. In such a city the citizens "get 100 cents worth of value for each dollar expended." It is very doubtful if the citizens of Richmond get 65 cents of value for each dollar spent in any of the departments.

EFFICIENCY IN CITY GOVERNMENT.

"To be efficient is more difficult than to be good. The average citizen honestly in favor of what he calls good government does not yet understand that there are an intelligence and efficiency as far beyond the reach of mere goodness as is business efficiency beyond the reach of mere good intention."—*Allen's Efficient Democracy.*

CONTRACT GRAFT

City Pays For Stone Twice

Some time ago THE IDEA had occasion to point out that the alley from Thirteenth to Fourteenth street, between Main and Franklin, had been torn up to place gas pipes almost immediately after it was put down. It now develops that this alley was paved in part with *old* spalls or stones, although the contract with the city called for new granite spalls.

Now, these old stones, it is claimed by Mr. Selph, councilman from Jefferson Ward, are already the property of the city, and the city by accepting the job has not only gotten *old* stones while it paid for *new* ones, but these old stones which the citizens are paying for have already been paid for by them before—no one knows how many times. This not only shows crookedness on the part of contractors, but also shows laxity on the part of the Engineer's Department in not properly inspecting the work before paying the contractors.

We would enquire what kind of inspecting is done, any how, that such open violation of contract is not seen by the city's representative. When such things occur the citizens have a right to think that the employees of the city must have seen the wrong and *winked* at it.

It is because just such blunders as this are continually being made by the Engineer's Department that THE IDEA has charged that the engineer is incompetent to fill the position. It matters not how much natural ability a man may have or how good a man he may be, if he cannot so attend to his work as to protect the citizens from such losses as this then it is high time the people were getting another man for the work.

The contract for this paving called for granite "of uniform quality," *"broken* to proper sizes," "to have uniform upper surfaces, and in all respects like the average specimen stones at the engineer's office." It can thus be seen that no worn-out stones could be used according to the specifications, and

yet the contractors have substituted in many places one-half the blocks of old, wornout stones discarded by the city and the city has paid for the work without a single protest from the City Engineer, who is charged with the duty of looking after the city's interests in such matters.

In fact, the very specifications by which the paving is done provide the method to be adopted by the engineer in case of violation of the specifications. If the city is fooled out of thousands of dollars by the use of the wrong stones, right out where they can be seen, how many thousands of dollars do you suppose the city is faked out of by the failure of some contractors to provide sufficient depth of foundation work and sand for the same jobs?

TWO NOTARIES

Recently we had occasion to use the services of a notary public in connection with our application for the second-class mailing privilege, so on the way to the post-office we stopped in at the office of the first notary whose sign we saw, on Tenth street, and when the notary found that our call was in connection with THE IDEA he, in a very curt and ungentlemanly manner, refused to do the work required, although he could have been compelled to do it, we are informed, because he was a duly commissioned representative of the State and could not let his personal ungentlemanly attitude affect his State duty to a citizen.

There were other notaries convenient, however, and so we smiled and passed on to the corner, where we entered the American National Bank Building and there accosted another notary, who very courteously fixed up our papers and on being asked the amount due him refused to make any charge for his services, but was glad to do that much by way of helping on the cause of good government and civic purity, for which THE IDEA has been standing.

It is needless to say that the last notary has already been

paid, in a manner in which he may not know, for his gentlemanly courtesy and *gratis* services.

Let the young folks ponder well these two little incidents and know that it always pays to be polite, even to those who do not think as you do.

Let it also be learned that the forces of evil in any community are so short-sighted as to do things which work to their own ultimate undoing.

Don't fail to take advantage of the clean, high-class amusements offered by the Radcliffe Concert Course at the Academy of Music during the present season.

CHURCHMEN ASSAILED

Preacher Declares That Too Frequently They Are Undesirable Citizens

CHICAGO, Sept. 28.—An attack on the liquor industry by Rev. Joseph H. Crooker, of Boston, president of the Unitarian Temperance Society, a denunciation of high churchmen and a plea for a fund of $100,000 to further the work of the Unitarian Sunday School Society, were features of the second session of the Unitarian Church Conference to-day.

"Conquer the drink habit," said Rev. Crooker, "is to conserve the greatest of our national resources—manhood."

Rev. W. Peck, president of the Unitarian Fellowship for Social Justice, assailed high churchmen. "Too frequently," he said, "is it found that the betrayers of trust, the tyrants of industrialism, the 'undesirable citizens' are men high in the churches. The iniquities of society are not the unaided deeds of debased or repulsive creatures, but rather the acts of respectable business men who conceal themselves behind the base tool of their will.

"The vicious dualism of the secular and the sacred, the divorcing of religion and business, the separating of worship and service must end in this country."

THE IDEA prints the above clipping because it has discovered that the greatest enmity to its efforts at rectifying evils comes from men high up—"respectable business men who conceal themselves behind the base tools of their will." Jesus found that His greatest enemies were respectable business men high up in the councils of the Church, and from that day to this all reforms have been accomplished in the face of the most cruel opposition of men whose cry is, "It will hurt our business." Let business men know that however high their position in the Church, any business advantage gained at the expense of the morals of the nation or the community must ultimately work to their own damnation.

CHANGE IN CITY GOVERNMENT PLAN

Ever since THE IDEA began, three years ago, its one hobby has been "government by commission." During the present year government by commission has been growing in popularity not only all over Virginia, but all over the United States. Hardly a week passes without the adoption by some city of the Union of this modern, economical and common sense business plan of city administration. The cities of Colorado, Iowa, Kansas, Texas and Massachusetts are falling over each other in their rapid adoption of the commission plan, as it is called.

While THE IDEA is pointing out the evils of our ancient and expensive and extravagant and inefficient and graft-breeding system of government by ward heelers, it will from time to time not simply argue for a change, but will detail the plans which other cities have adopted.

Ward politicians are continually making the statement

that there is no desire on the part of the citizens to have a change in the form of government. This is by no means true.

On inquiring of the citizens of Richmond there is found an almost universal demand that Richmond adopt the plan of government by commission. Read elsewhere in this number the statements concerning government by commission made before the League of American Municipalities at Omaha, Neb., last year.

HOW TO ELECT GOOD MEN

John MacVicar of Des Moines, Iowa, on Government by Commission

It is said, with truth, under whatever form of government a city is being conducted, the right kind of men must be elected if results are to be had. In my judgment, under the Des Moines plan of so-called commission government, the *people can more readily* discriminate in the *selection of their officials* and more *competent men* are more liable to be selected. Under *this plan* of government the people will have no *difficulty* in fixing the responsibility and the *councilman* who is superintendent of any department must account directly to the people for the conduct of that department. The paying of salaries to these officials requiring their entire time, the selection of the officials at large, and without regard to ward lines, the elimination of partisan politics and non-partisan election, together with the centering of responsibility, must get results that could not be had under the usual form of Mayor and Council, with its divided responsibility.

We have been operating under this plan in Des Moines for six months, and as an official who has served as Mayor for five years, under the the Mayor and ward Council plan, I have to say that there is no comparison possible between the two methods. Under this plan the business of the city is disposed of promptly and intelligently. Daily meetings of the council result in the members being in touch with the entire city work,

and giving their entire time to its conduct prompt and effective results are obtained. In my judgment the governing of cities by small bodies of men, elected at large, and paid adequate salaries, will be the prevailing system in the near future. In other words, a city's business will be conducted by men trained to and compensated for the work.

THE JEWISH RECORD

The Idea desires to extend its greeting to *The Jewish Record*, a weekly magazine, the first number of which appeared under date of September 19th.

Unlike many, The Idea is sincerely glad to see the Jew take part in all the activities of life, because The Idea is extremely desirous that Jewish ideals, as exemplified in their laws of health and sanitation, shall exert their proper good influence on our modern civilization. All hail to the Jewish race, to whom America and all modern civilizations are indebted more than they are willing to admit.

We earnestly hope that *The Jewish Record* may occupy the same position for betterment to the community in which it circulates that Jewish teachings occupy to the nations of the earth.

HIGH SCHOOL CHAIRS.

If what the papers say be true then there is certainly somebody connected with the city who is a party to the crime of cheating the city in connection with the purchase of chairs for the High School Auditorium.

Everybody knows that such a bold thing would not be attempted if the sellers did not know that there was such a loose system of purchasing that they stood small chance of being detected.

The method of stealing from Richmond tax-payers must be pretty well understood by the grafters when they'll resort to stealing a sample chair and replacing it with another of inferior quality.

No such deeds would be done if Richmond did not have such a bunglesome system of buying as to give great confidence to thieves that all would be well.

The fact is, no one will ever be able to adequately estimate the amount of graft there has been going on in connection with the High School Building.

Let the manufacturers deliver the chairs ordered and let the School Board see to it that no concessions are made to those who are caught red-handed. The citizens of Richmond are getting tired of paying for things they don't get. But they'll have to keep on at it until the city adopts the commission form of government.

It can be safely relied on, however, that the present council, elected by the old ward system machine, will never favor a change that will break up their power.

The citizens will have to act over the heads of councilmen.

Dear Sir—The following were open and doing business Sunday, October 3, 1909:

1404 East Main.
Corner of Seventh and Main.
Corner of Seventh and Main.
Between Second and First on Main.
Between Bank and Franklin, Ninth.
Elkington's, on Broad.
Next to Richmond News Company.
"Murphy's" Cigar Store (hotel).
About six other places I can't remember.

Can't you make some mention of this in your next issue? The police need waking up, and The Idea is the medium which can make them sit up and beg.

Yours very truly, H. G. Carlisle.

A letter has just been received from Norfolk begging that The Idea undertake its work also in that city.

Calls are continually coming to us to extend our sphere of labor, but to them the reply must be made that the de-

mand for the endeavors of this paper is too great and the field of labor here too broad to attempt to add any new fields. The Idea hopes in time to become a genuine State magazine with a staff of prominent writers and forceful and diligent workers for the common good. Virginia, with its State-wide political corruption, presents a vast and undiscovered field of operation, and The Idea plans to enter it and send out from Richmond each week a paper whose influence shall be cast for the betterment of conditions in Virginia, and whose influence shall be ever used for the purifying of politics and the uplifting of manhood in the Old Dominion.

AN AWAKENED CITY

Remarkable Showing Made In The Regeneration of Paterson, N. J.

The city of Paterson, N. J., has suffered so much in recent years from bad government, from fires and from a largely undeserved reproach of being a headquarters of criminal anarchy, that it is gratifying to find it now making a far more favorable record, which, indeed, might well cause the silk city to be an object of envy to many more pretentious municipalities.

The report of the Mayor for the last fiscal year makes a really remarkable showing. For the eighteen years immediately preceding the last two years there was invariably a deficit in the city's accounts at the end of each fiscal year. But the year before last that dismal rule was broken with a small surplus, and last year the surplus was the largest in the city's history, although all bills had been paid and there had been exceptionally large appropriations for public works of various kinds. There were also large payments on the public debt, so that while $300,000 of school and street improvement bonds were issued, the net bonded debt was decreased by

$88,000 and the floating debt by $224,000, and the yearly interest charge was reduced by more than 17 per cent.

All this was accomplished without increase of taxation. On the contrary, for the ensuing year the tax rate has been materially reduced, an achievement which may not be rivaled by any other city in the State. The secret of it all is that taxes have been thoroughly and promptly collected, needless expenses have been avoided, and the whole city government has been conducted in an economical, as well as a highly efficient, manner. Thus a considerable block of municipal bonds were paid off during the year with money saved in the various departments, and at the same time the general testimony was that the departments were more efficiently conducted than ever before.

Much credit for this commendable state of affairs is justly to be given to the Mayor and his lieutenants and to the various commissions who have been directing the city; for it will be recalled that Paterson is one of those cities which have revolted against aldermanic inefficiency and corruption and have adopted the system of government by commission. But we should probably give the chief credit after all to the aroused and aggressive public sentiment which made itself felt at the polls and thus brought about this municipal revolution.—*New York Tribune.*

ON CITY GOVERNMENT.

As an executive, his Honor, the Mayor is a distinct failure. Not so much perhaps does he lack as the system of which he is part. If we are determined to preserve the triune form of governmental machinery, no misfits can be allowed. Each department must be effectual in itself. As prime administrator, the Mayor is a front and head piece of the machine. As to the courts and the legislative machinery, he should keep his hands to himself. The law-makers need not necessarily be composed of two houses. A wholesome and guarded veto power should rest in the chief executive.

The situation should never be too large for him to sit upon when need calls, unless, perhaps, he does so in usurpation.

If check must be applied, it should come from a hand strengthened by law and nerved by right. The judiciary element should be set apart from all legislative and executive function. Reform in the present condition might be made to serve valuable purpose ad interim. But, as a fact well settled in the minds of us all, municipalities are better governed after corporation models. The models must be worth copying and executive details must be honestly placed and correctly administered. In the municipality there is no need for a congress, a bench of justices and a frontispiece administrator. There are methods broadly based on sound experimental practice that can be copied into any city code and checked at intervals wherever legal safeguards are needful. Mere matters of detail come always after well defined principles are discovered and applied. A city is no longer a province, neither is it simply a chartered creature. It is an expression of power applied to regulation and control with direct action and all the municipal checks and balances that corporation experience has set by way of model for corporation imitation.

The ordinance-making power is of the citizens. Executive functions are provided by civic employees from the body of the people themselves. We are the people and we are the law makers, the executives and the judiciary ourselves. It is for us to delegate amongst ourselves the details of functional activity. We are not rulers and ruled, we are not sovereigns and subjects, we are machines operating municipal business for the benefit of our citizens, and it is not for us to consider office, place, dignities, powers and functions as private property any longer. The day for that view has happily passed beyond us.

Opportunities and powers of graft are misapplication. They are not vested rights or even permissible privileges. We are not at any stage of municipal operation, more than servants commissioned by our public. We are not, invested with discretionary powers, except within distinct and carefully delimited areas.

Within limits thus broadly defined, it is possible to constitute and erect a machinery of government that will operate

automatically and correctly, with but narrow margins for abuse.

Strict construction must be the rule of reading, and duty must be the motive that underlies action, with punishment for its peril and safeguards thrown about every step of its progress. The servants of the public are fiduciary agents and woe be to those who fail of their set responsibility.

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EGULARLY to you at your home or office. It'll help the boy and you and The Idea. See? If the boys don't come your way, notify us or send 50 cents for a three months subscription or one dollar for six months or two dollars for a year.

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is booming. You'd better take advantage of it.

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Vol. III Oct. 16, 1909 No. 20

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THE IDEA

A Sign of the Times

VOL. III OCTOBER 16, 1909 No. 20

5 CENTS A COPY $2.00 A YEAR

Published Weekly on Saturday by ADON A. YODER,
904 Capitol Street, Richmond, Va.

Entered as second class mail matter July 10, 1909 at the Post Office at Richmond, Va.

POLICY IN POLICE COURT

Justice John Encourages Crime

Recently a policeman arrested a negro on the charge of selling policy and brought into court a trunk full of policy paraphernalia, including books of signs, policy sheets and all the necessary equipment for carrying on the business. The evidence showed that the negro had in his hand at the time of his arrest the record sheets on which entries are made, and was sitting behind his desk used for that purpose, and yet Justice John dismissed the case for want of evidence. Many has been the time that poor people not of the vicious criminal class have been fined and insulted in this court on very slight evidence of infraction of some minor law, but when one of the most dangerous men in the community is caught with all manner of evidence of crime, the Justice sees fit, for reasons known only to himself and other interested few, to dismiss the case and let the criminal go free. The chief of police finds it almost impossible to break up the policy business, largely because when the crooks are caught they go free

through the kindness (?) of Justice John. We wonder what the nature of the connection is between the criminals and Justice John that the worst of them have such a pull.

The ways of the politicians are indeed past finding out.

Public Offices Used For Private Gain

Real Estate Men Improve Their Own Property At The Expense of The Poor Taxpayer

POLLARD AND GREEN

Loud and frequent have been the complaints against certain members of the city council for having their property improved while more needed improvements were neglected around the properties of those who have paid taxes for even generations, but who could not get the needed improvements because they did not "stand in" or did not "have a pull" or happened to be on unfriendly terms with certain crooked politicians.

The attention of The Idea has been called to the fact that two real estate concerns have very active councilmen as parties in their business, and that these concerns are doing fine business as a result of this fact.

The firm of Pollard & Bagby has done a wonderful business in the past few years and those who know attribute it to the fact that Mr. Pollard is in the city council and is so shrewd and smooth tongued a councilman that he is popular not only with the *bosses* and *slick* and crooked members of the council, but also with the clean and honest members of that body.

As a result of his influence in the council property owners naturally prefer to turn their rentals and sales over to his concern. A prospective seller of real estate will list his property with this concern because he knows that it will be to his advantage to have such a councilman as his agent, for the agent, desiring to increase his commissions on the sale, will use his influence to have the property improved so that it will command a better figure in the market and also be of easy sale. You know it is so easy to sell property if you can say that the city is spending money in that section—has laid new granolithic walks and has appropriated money for asphalt block roadway.

Then an ad is seen in the paper—Pollard & Bagby sold such and such a property on yesterday at such and such a figure, being twice the price paid for the same property four years ago.

Then perchance follows a description of the favored section, praising the streets, etc., but not a word is said to show that Mr. Pollard's influence as councilman was largely responsible for these improvements.

As a result, however, the firm's business increases phenominally, as is shown by the boastful reports in the papers, and Pollard grows rich all because he is able to command votes for his pet schemes in the council.

New patrons come to the concern because they see that the concern gets results. Very naturally the careful investor engages the powerful firm because he wants his property improved, and so we find that our old system of government by councilmen is not much more than a big grab game—each councilman trying to out do his neighbor in getting some improvement for his section. Go to the committee meetings and council meetings and you will be astounded to hear the city fathers of Richmond continually squabbling over where the money shall be spent, each little ward representative pulling for his section, or, if he can fool his constituents, helping the other fellow through with a "deal."

This abuse of the people's trust has gotten so open that recently it has become a standing joke in the council and committee meetings to ask "what are you getting out of this?"

and to insinuate that the other fellow is getting more than his share of the graft. Men with the respect of their communities are parties to these base schemes and seem to regard it as a part of their legitimate pay to loot the people's treasury for their private gain.

Just recently the firm of Green & Redd conceived the plan of having the city pay for improving their property way out beyond Soldiers' Home.

Lee Park is a land boom scheme out in this section, owned by Green & Redd, with acres and acres of unimproved open fields between it and the city proper and yet Mr. Green, of the real estate firm, and Mr. Pollard, another real estate man, both councilmen, appeared before the street committee of the council and publicly advised the committee to spend several thousand dollars of the people's money way out there in the country in opening up streets over the property of this private concern, and the committee voted the money on the flimsy pretext that if they did not open the streets now they might have to pay more later for damages if the grading was done after buildings were erected. They voted to spend the money of taxpayers who had paid for tens of years and gotten no improvements in order to save money for some possible future taxpayer, when the grade could easily be established now without spending $3,050 to improve the streets, and the property owners could have no recourse on the city if they ignored the city's established grade.

Now, the point is this: that favored interests can get their property improved, with city money, way out in the country, while unfavored, poor people, in almost the heart of the city, must wade in mud or dust for lack of a few hundred dollars of necessary and long over-due improvements and pay high taxes for the benefit of country land booms.

The annals of the council are filled with records of private real estate graft games. It is no new thing for councilmen to buy up land and then rush through the council an expensive appropriation for its improvement.

Any citizen who has watched the records of the city's legislative body can tell you who did it. The Idea is concerned

only about the present and to show up those in present bad practice and to point the remedy in shearing these privileged parties of their power and in adopting a form of government which will eradicate this crooked work.

Government by a paid council of five men, elected *at large*, not by wards, would insure the election of cleaner men and would make an effective and responsible and economical management. This is the remedy other cities have tried and found excellent. Why should not Richmond try it also? If Richmond don't try it it will be because the politicians find they can't thrive under it.

When the politicians don't want a thing it is time for the people to seriously consider it, for the chances are it is *the* thing to adopt.

POLLOCK INVESTIGATOR

Grain Graft

The grain graft investigation now going on develops the fact that the engineering department has no method of checking the weight of grain delivered to the city, and if drivers or contractors desired to steal from the city it has been a very easy matter to do so; and in the matter of grain from Alvey it is certain that stealing has been going on for years without any suspicion of it on the part of the city.

Certainly no large private buyer would rely so implicitly on the honesty and integrity of others as to utterly ignore the need for checking up receipts.

It appears from the investigation that the city pays for grain on bills showing simply that the weighmaster had weighed so much grain without any assurance that the city ever actually got the goods.

We wonder where these investigations will end, anyway. We suppose that this one will wind up like the most of them—perfect farces.

It looked rather incongruous to see Gilbert Pollock presiding over the investigation into the grain theft.

The Idea, for one, does not hesitate to say that it thinks he needs to be investigated as much as those over whom he sat as chief investigator.

THE SAUNDERS SUIT.

Though no day has been set for the suit entered by Clyde W. Saunders against The Idea and its printers, still it cannot come up for trial before some time in January, and may not come up then.

PLAYING POLITICS

Who is Mayor?

Those citizens who missed seeing "The Man of the Hour" at the Academy recently lost a most valuable opportunity of learning the manner in which they are betrayed. It was the most instructive sermon to the taxpayers we have ever heard and it is a matter of regret that more of them were not present. To see the play is to understand why Pollock and Leaman and Saunders are so "interested" in city politics; why Mayor Richardson thinks he can't enforce the law; why Justice Crutchfield does not give justice, and why contracts are let to the highest bidder.

It was a fine piece of work to see, when the political boss, who was sending an order to the police, who were subservient to him, was forcefully informed by the Mayor that he —the mayor—was the head of the police department and the police would do his bidding.

What a pity the Mayor of Richmond is not big enough to show the crooks and politicians that he is Mayor and that he is the head of the police department and that he will see to it that the laws are enforced.

It is a very pertinent question to ask is Mayor Richardson really Mayor or is he just a figure-head, and if he don't do his duty to enforce the law who is the man behind who does direct the workings of the police department!

One thing dead sure, the laws of the State are utterly ignored in Richmond and Mayor Richardson, who has taken an oath to the State to enforce them, is responsible for the failure.

WHO WOULD YOU HAVE AS COMMISSIONERS?

McCARTHY PROPOSED

The enemies of the commission plan have thrown cold water on the proposition by suggesting that Justice John be one of the commissioners.

This is nothing but a scheme to kill the idea of commission government, for every one knows that even the proposal of such an event would bring the plan into disfavor. There are a host of good men whom Richmond could draft into service and honor herself by the act.

The Idea will name three who are already in public life, though Richmond should select from private life strong, able, experienced men of large affairs to hold such important positions.

Carlton McCarthy, by all means, should be one, as he is the best equipped man in the State for such a position. As Mayor he could accomplish little; as commissioner he could work wonders. His experience, his integrity, his fearlessness, and his natural ability mark him as the one man to head such a commission.

Commissioner of Revenue Hawkins would make another, and even Mayor Richardson, though he has not yet the proper respect for law, might make another good commissioner.

Five such men of integrity could work a revolution in Richmond, and it is high time that such a change were made.

It is even argued that five weaklings—even the worst that could be found—would do better than fifty-six men, because of the one big gain—individual responsibility. As it is, no one knows who the responsible parties are. The bills all go through so many committees and sub-committees that the crook gets in his dirty work, but no one can trace it to the particular crook without spending a lifetime in watching.

A Public Nuisance

The Idea would enquire why the Virginia-Carolina Chemical Company is permitted to operate, unhindered, a nuisance in the city of Richmond, while an ordinary citizen would be jailed for the same offence. Almost any morning when the wind is from the right quarter an over-powering odor ascends up to Capitol Square and sweeps over the residence section of the city to the unspeakable insult of the olfactory nerves of thousands of citizens. Still the Chemical Company, from whence the foul incense emenates, continues to operate without molestation, while visitors to the city wander out of the hotels and enquire where the health department is.

It is certainly up to somebody to abate this nuisance.

What has the Chemical Company done for the police department that they do not arrest the wealthy operators?

THE STREET CLEANERS

What has become of the street cleaning department? Up to recently they had been doing fairly well, but a change has taken place. Has the fund for this purpose been exhausted? Certain it is that the city is not having its streets cleaned as of yore. And when the sweepers do get started the sprinkler has gone on so long before that the streets are dry and the

disagreeable and unhealthy dust is as bad as leaving the debris in the streets.

The city operates an intermittent sprinkler where a better service is needed.

The Idea is compiling a list of names of the owners of houses in the red light district and will publish these shortly and show up the men who are worse than the low inmates of these places, some of whom are there as a result of ignorance and misfortune.

The owners, on the other hand, are much greater criminals, in that they carry on their nefarious trade in immorality through knowledge and fortune and greed.

VIRGINIA NEWS IN THE TIMES-DISPATCH

Those who really think *The Times-Dispatch* is a real, "sho-nuff" newspaper would do well sometimes in their search for the news which the "Supreme in Virginia" fails to give them, to compare the press dispatches of some out of the State paper with those of the Richmond morning daily.

Just recently when the League of Virginia Municipalities convened in Staunton *The Times-Dispatch* gave such a limited and abbreviated report of the first day's proceedings that Richmond people interested in the convention bought *The Washington Post* in order to get the news, and there found a fine account of the meeting of the night before which the "Supreme" had not even mentioned. It looks as though *The Times-Dispatch* correspondent mailed his little article from Staunton and since the mails are slower than the telegraph, which other papers use, the correspondent had to go to the post-office before the night meeting was held.

If you want the Virginia news you'll hardly get it from the paper that boasts its supremacy. On the other hand, if

you'll send out of the State for it you may find out what is going on in Virginia.

MEETING ON CHURCH HILL

The Editor to Speak

The editor of THE IDEA has been importuned to speak on many occasions recently, both in Richmond and in other cities, but all such invitations he has felt it his duty to decline, because of his lack of ability as a speaker and his lack of time from more important work.

The Christ Church Association on Venable street has insisted on a talk to men at the Association Hall on Thursday, October 21st, at 8 o'clock, and as the "aim is to institute a spirit of reform along certain lines of public interest," and as the editor is anxious to do all he can to bring about a state of respect for, and enforcement of, law he has finally consented to speak on that occasion.

Then, too, he thinks that if he shows how poor a speaker he is he won't be worried with so many invitations to talk.

TO SUBSCRIBERS.

Some complaints are made that carriers fail to deliver THE IDEA to regular buyers. This is due to the fact that certain employees of some of the daily papers have done, and are doing, all they can to hurt the business of THE IDEA by means fair or foul, and unless you are getting good service as it is, it would be well to have THE IDEA mailed to you regularly. This can be easily arranged by seeing THE IDEA man at 904 Capitol street, or mailing your subscription to THE IDEA, Richmond, Va. Rates are $2.00 a year or $1.00 for six months. When you miss a number it's always the one you wanted to see.

ROCK STEALING

A member of the Committee on Streets informs us that the contractor, who paved the alley, as told in the last number of THE IDEA, with old city block, while the city paid him for new block, had a perfect right to do this, for, said the committeeman, he told the contractor he might use the old city block.

And what do you think of that? A committeeman telling a contractor it would be all right to give the city its own old stone in place of new ones which the taxpayer is paying for. My! what will happen next? THE IDEA proposes to turn on the light and let the citizens see where their money goes. Will the people stand for any such deal as this? THE IDEA calls this Rotten Dealing. Even if the blocks were good as new, and they were not, why should you and I pay for them twice?

TAFT ON LAW ENFORCEMENT.

President Taft, in his California utterances, frankly voices his adhesion to the Rosveltian policies, of amendment and reform. Everywhere in the country he finds signs of an oncoming prosperity that promises business enterprise and expansion never before seen in this country. But he warns us of accompanying responsibilities and duties we may not disregard. For himself, he freely accepts the obligation of law enforcement, and counsels us all of the need and duty of holding ourselves and our representatives to that obligation. Under laws that shall clinch the progress made we may expect permanent betterment, he preaches, and the general law of the United States can be relied upon to check those abuses of power that have been incontinently seized upon by accumulations of capital.

"It is to the people," he teaches, "we must look for enforcement."

Summing up at Dunsmuir, Cal., Monday, the President said: "Select your representatives and have them know you are watching them in Congress, and see that they follow the law of enforcement."

REJECTED.

"No. No. I must say never."
And turns her graceful head.
"And we must part forever?"
Then these last words were said—
"Love lives tho duty sever
And I will love tho dead."

Out in the cold, cold night,
Out on the hills of God
I'm wandering away from the brightness of day
To sleep my long sleep 'neath the sod.

Out in the black, black night,
Out in the darkness alone,
And never a bed where to lay down my head,
And never a pillow but stone.

Out in the drear, drear night,
For the moon has hidden her face,
And the stars that were mine have now ceased to shine,
And the stars have taken their place.

And oh that a sound I might hear;
A voice to awaken my gloom
Or a fain gleam of light to scatter my night
And wrest my sad heart from the tomb.

But never, never, never,
Beats my weary soul,
As ever, ever, ever, the endless ages roll.
And naught my bonds can sever,
And naught my life console.

DEVILMENT AT THE FAIR.

Will be the subject of a forceful article in next week's IDEA. It'll be worth reading, for the responsible parties will be exposed in an *Ideal* way.

COUNT LOCHWITZKY TO SPEAK.

Lieutenant-Colonel Alexander M. Lochwitzky, formerly of the Russian Imperial War Office, and political exile from his native country, Doctor of Laws of an American University and lecturer of national prominence will speak to the men of Richmond at Christ Church Association on Venable St., next Thursday night at 8 o'clock.

Office of the President, Stanford Univ., Cal.

Lt.-Col. A. M. Lochwitzky, San Francisco, Cal.

Dear Sir: Permit me to express to you our great pleasure in listening to the most interesting and thrilling story of your experiences in Russia and Saghalien as given in your lecture at the University on Thursday night. The story was not only intensely thrilling and admirably told, but gave a vivid idea of the viciousness of Russian officialism which one could obtain in scarcely any other way. It was as though a prisoner of the Bastile had escaped in the time of the French Revolution, and was telling his story to sympathizing friends, who had never known anything but freedom.—Very truly yours, David S. Jordan.

The thrilling story of his own life, encompassed by so many dangers and narrow escapes, is marvelous. The story of his heroic life is itself a sermon on loyalty to duty and utmost confidence in the supreme and all-powerful God.—C. S. Osbourn, Y. M. C. A., Washington and Lee University.

REST

"Under the wide and starry sky,
Dig the grave and let me lie—
Glad did I live and gladly die,
And laid me down with a will.

This be the verse you grave for me—
Here he lies where he longed to be,
Home is the sailor, home from the sea
And the hunter home from the hill."

(Verses on the tomb of Robt. Louis Stevenson written by himself.)

Taxation without representation is an injustice to the individual and community. Representation without taxation is a festering sore in the breast of the State. Tax all Church and college property. They receive police and fire protection.

"Just let this thought sorter sink into your soul: The Mummy ain't had no fun in moren five thousand years."—*Sagebush Philosophy.*

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Let us write your ad's for you. We will give you the services of an expert. Catchy, classy ads pay big dividends.

Our circulation is 7,000. Our magazine is read by five times that number every week. Think it over.

THE MIDNIGHT MISSION AND SUNDAY MORNING BREAKFAST.

Rescue Gospel meetings are held every Saturday and Wednesday nights at 8 o'clock; midnight meetings begin at 10:30 o'clock; Sunday breakfast, 9 o'clock every Sunday morning. Drinking men especially welcome in these meetings. This mission is located in the heart of the red light district. Nearly every house in this locality is operated to corrupt morals and ruin souls. This mission house is open for God's glory and to rescue the lost.

Every Wednesday night the services are conducted by a saved sporting house keeper. All are welcome.

Address all communications to C. H. Gootee, 14 West Cary street.

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NEAR CARS

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REGULARLY to you at your home or office. It'll help the boy and you and The Idea. See? If the boys don't come your way, notify us or send 50 cents for a three months subscription or one dollar for six months or two dollars for a year.

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Vol. III Oct. 23, 1909 No. 21

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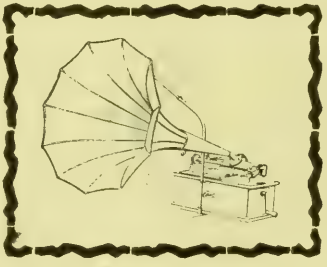
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THE IDEA

A Sign of the Times

VOL. III OCTOBER 23, 1909 No. 21

5 CENTS A COPY $2.00 A YEAR

Published Weekly on Saturday by ADON A. YODER,
904 Capitol Street, Richmond, Va.

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WALTER G. DUKE

Police Commissioner and Otherwise

THE IDEA has often had occasion to censure the members of the Board of Police Commissioners of the city for their responsibility for various instances of crookedness. Walter Duke is a police commissioner and one who needs to be looked after.

Likewise THE IDEA has found it necessary to show up the City Democratic Committee, which is the real seat of the political corruption of the city. Walter Duke is a member of that committee. Now a man *may* be a clean man and be a Democratic city committeeman, and a man *may* be a clean man and be a police commissioner. Likewise one *may* live in a hog pen and not be a hog. But if you find an animal in a hog pen that looks like a hog and acts like a hog and eats like a hog the chances are that he is a hog.

Also if a man belongs to the Police Commission and sanctions the acts of that body, and belongs to the City Democratic Committee and sanctions the acts of that body, the chances are that he is a dangerous man and an enemy to the public good.

On last Saturday the papers published an account of a row in the hog pen of the City Democratic Committee, in which Committeeman Shield said to Committeeman Duke, "You are a crook." This city committee is the one of which Saunders has for years been the recognized boss and of which Leaman is a lieutenant and man of influence, and this is the political machine that has been responsible for the traitorous acts of stealing elections, as has been the case in Richmond on innumerable occasions. This is the committee that fixes ballot boxes and puts crooks in control of polls and sells out the people to organized grafters.

Now, one of the members of this committee calls Mr. Duke a crook, and it looks as though it would be possible for this row to expose some of the evil workings of the gang, although the news item concerning the affair adds that the accuser states that he is "not at liberty to explain at this time the cause of this affair."

Now, The Idea would state in this connection that the meetings of this committee, which affects the very foundation of our city government, should be public, as the affairs of this city committee are the affairs of the people and vitally affect the citizens, for the acts of this committee are the acts which determine how much you and I are to pay in taxes and who are to be our political *masters,* as our public servants have come to be. Yet you and I never know anything that goes on in these secret meetings unless a row turns the light on some of the rascals who are tramping under their feet the rights of American citizens.

Let the row go merrily on until all the crooks are disclosed in their true colors.

Meantime, let the citizens beware lest the two arch conspirators against the welfare of the people—namely, Saunders and Leaman—who have recently been deposed from this nefarious committee, do not pull the wires so as to place themselves again on that committee, which they have used so

effectively to enrich themselves by stuffing ballot boxes and corrupting councilmen to sell their votes for gain. Both Saunders and Leaman are self-confessed corruptionists, and now Mr. Duke, their associate, is called a crook.

Let it be known that this all-powerful city committee is the committee that practically decides who shall be elected by the people for councilmen and aldermen, and this crooked committee is largely responsible for the fact that the City Council is composed so largely of rascals and grafters. Also let it be known that these rascals and grafters in the council are the ones who in turn elect the Board of Police Commissioners, and here enters again Mr. Duke, as Police Commissioner. See the circle? See the ring?

Now comes the interesting part of our tale. Mr. Duke, Police Commissioner, used his influence with certain policemen in *The News Leader* circulation contest to get policemen, who owe their positions as policemen to this commission, to solicit subscriptions for Mr. Duke for *The News Leader.* Now, it came to pass that policemen went to see the women of the red light district and practically demanded of these women that they subscribe to *The News Leader* for Mr. Duke, and these women of ill fame, who carry on their unlawful business by permission of the Police Commissioners, naturally felt that they had to put up the money or else loose their "pull" with the commissioners.

It seems, however, that one or more of these women thought that they had submitted to enough grafting from the commissions, and so she, or they, raised a kick and thus the matter leaked out that Duke had been using his official position to line his own pockets. The papers said nothing about the matter because of the fact that the Bryans owned them so largely and *The News Leader,* thus owned, was concerned in the deal.

It is just such crooked work as this that keeps these crooked houses in existence in defiance of the expressed will of the people. The people in their Legislature have clearly said that no houses of ill fame shall exist, but the Police Commissioners, who can use these houses for their private gain, utterly ignore the law and keep these houses in existence in open contempt

of all law. This is the reason that the city of Richmond practically legalizes, against the law, the very worst forms of vice and crime, simply because it pays those in authority to wink at the violation of the law.

Such men as these, who tear down all respect for law, are our most dangerous citizens and are doing more to encourage anarchy—the reign of lawlessness—than any other class of people.

Yet here in Richmond we let a weak and subservient council, elected and put into power by a corrupt political machine, foist upon us a base and corrupt police board who, as servants of the law, trample under foot the acts of the very Legislature that created their positions.

What has become of that *News Leader* contest, anyway?

Have you seen any of your friends yet who returned from *The News Leader* trip to Europe?

Richmond dominated by such papers!

How has Richmond fallen!

LET THE BRIDGE BE FREE FOR CHURCH HILL PEOPLE

Now that the bridge building concern has failed to live up to its agreement let the city go ahead and build its own viaduct and make it free to all pedestrians. Why should the residents of Church Hill have to pay a tax every time they go a-shopping?

Why should the mechanic or the clerk pay a tax to a corporation every time he goes to his work or to his meals?

The day of toll-paying to private corporations for the use of the highways, which should be the property of the public, is rapidly becoming a thing of the past, as it should be.

The city should own its own utilities, although with the present rotten management, which surely can't last much longer, much money must be wasted in building public works. If the

people of Church Hill will present their reasonable demands now while they can, by petition, they may be able to compel the council to act for the benefit of all the people.

If, however, they neglect their opportunity they may have to pay special taxes for generations to some corporation for the right to walk from one part of town to another.

SOME STRAIGHT TALK ON CITY AFFAIRS

Is the News Leader Sincere?

Now our city jail, almost a new building, is officially condemned and reported unfit for human habitation. Probably we shall have to begin all over again and spend another hundred thousand dollars or so to provide a proper structure. This should put the people of Richmond again on inquiry as to why it is that everything the city undertakes to do involves a fumble, a mess and a scandal. Our ordinary business men and citizens with limited means and capital establish enterprises without trouble. They build sky scrapers, buy and install plants of various kinds, go on year after year buying and selling and trading easily and smoothly. Yet, *whatever the city touches brings trouble, loss, failure.* We have had rows and troubles over the High School and its furniture. All of us recollect the failure of the flume and the disasters at the settling basin. We have just finished a long investigation into the contracts for the municipal electric light plant. It seems *we cannot even dig an ordinary ditch or fill a ravine without necessity for official inquiry.* At every step we must call in a grand jury and have something probed or somebody indicted.

Why is it? Surely we are not a community of crooks or idiots. We are becoming notorious. Newspapers throughout the South notice that *a large part of the news space of Richmond newspapers is occupied with stories of local mismanage-*

ment and suspected wrong doing. We go from one investigation into another. *Richmond is becoming a kind of laughing stock.* People outside get the impression that *our government is thoroughly rotten.* It is exceptionally clean.

The foundation trouble is the confusion and division or obscurity of responsibility. Our council is composed chiefly of men who can do no more than dabble in city affairs. Every business man knows that no man can successfully and intelligently conduct a large-going concern to which he gives not more than five or six hours in the month. The executive organization is cumbersome and complicated. Nearly everything is everybody's business and, therefore, nobody's. *We are managed by amateurs* and conducted by men kept chronically in confusison regarding their own rights, duties and powers. When we had a disturbance over a market stall a few weeks ago it appeared that some three departments were stumbling over each other in an effort to straighten out a hundred dollar transaction.

The meaning of it all is that our city government must be straightened out and simplified and brought up to date. *The present system has brought us a succession of scandal and disasters.* We should have a commission government in some form, or at least something which will define and fix responsibilities. As it is now, we cannot place the blame for anything that goes wrong. All kinds of outside considerations and complications come into our every undertaking and all kinds of personal and political influences have to be regarded.

Sooner or later we must come to a simple and efficient city government. Everybody must understand that by now. Certainly the sooner the better, not only for the tax-payers and people generally, but for Richmond's reputation.

The above is an editorial in *The News Leader* of October 15th, but you did not see it, did you? The heading, "Lesson of a Mess," was at the bottom of the column and was entirely overlooked by most of the citizens. It is by far the most sensible thing we've seen in that paper for a long time, although the writer got afraid of his own shadow before he finished and nullified the force of his otherwise sound writing by saying "our government is exceptionally clean." In the breath before

that he had said, "It seems we cannot even dig an ordinary ditch or fill a ravine without necessity for official inquiry."

Did you ever hear of a Richmond paper in the last several years admitting anything like that before?

Why is it that the papers are now discovering rottenness, and why is it that investigating committees are always probing some scandal? We'll tell you. It's because THE IDEA has been on the scene for the last six months. The rottenness was here before then, but when it leaked out now and then the Bryan papers of Richmond put on the lid and stopped the leaks and minimized the steals and made it appear that Richmond was the best and cleanest run city in the country, when it was a stench in the nostrils of those of its own citizens who knew how deep the trouble lay.

HOW ABOUT THIS?

A former prominent resident of Richmond, who is now a wholesale jobber in another city with branch houses in several States, told the writer long ago that the Richmond government was rotten to the core, but the writer could not believe it, because he had been reading *The Times-Dispatch,* that past-master in the art of concealing the truth—that morning sheet that is responsible more than any one other thing, perhaps, for the present state of affairs, because when it could expose the crooks it refused to do so. THE IDEA, however, has aroused the citizens and to-day the crooks are on the run; some have already gone down in defeat and the rest are quaking in their boots, and on each Saturday crooks, whom we have not yet mentioned, eagerly grab up this little affair to see if THE IDEA has discovered and exposed their sins, and the people are organizing and discussing all over the city in order to put out in the cold next spring some of the remaining malefactors when election time comes around. Some of the slick ones, we understand, are so scared that they will voluntarily (?) retire

and not stand for re-election, all because THE IDEA was born in the city of Richmond last spring.

Now stop and think what all this means. It means that the people of Richmond owe a debt of gratitude to this little affair for turning on the light and for nagging the daily papers on so that finally they are lining up, though in a half-hearted way, for clean government. It means that THE IDEA, which is gradually getting the support it deserves, has already saved the citizens of Richmond tens of thousands of dollars and, though when it started it was subjected to all kinds of opposition from the crooks and the daily papers, who said it could not last six weeks, it has survived their attacks and is to-day able to pay its expenses from its own receipts, and now that it is an established and recognized medium, THE IDEA calls on the good people of Richmond to hold up its hands and increase its usefulness. There is a vast field of corruption and political rascality which has never been explored and the good people of Richmond can help in this beneficent work by at least subscribing to the paper that is responsible for the work of reform. We feel that we have gotten to the point where we can ask with assurance for your patronage.

With the help of but one kind friend who aided with his means THE IDEA has withstood the storm so far without making a fight for subscriptions until it had become so established as to merit your support. Now that that time has come may we not count on the good people of Richmond for their tangible aid at least to the small extent of a yearly subscription. A subscription list will help us in the securing of advertisements and thus increase the power of THE IDEA by making it able to employ one or two of the livest writers in the country to help in the fight. It will enable us to make the paper larger and more attractively gotten up by the addition of more cartoon work and cuts and better articles. In the name of all that is pure and good can't we count on YOU? Mail us your subscrip- to-day. Get busy. Thank you.

How long has the chief of police been used as a lackey by the Police Board to give effect to their grudge against a private citizen?

THE LAW'S DELAY

The Appeal Bond in the Leaman Case

When the editor of The Idea was assaulted on the street two months ago by W. P. Leaman, who was then found guilty in the police court, 'Squire Graves over-stepped the bounds of his rights in the case by requiring bond of the editor. An appeal was taken by the editor from the decision of the 'squire, because he acted contrary to law in requiring bond, and the case was set for the term of the Hustings Court beginning October 4th. The case, however, was not finally reached until Monday, October 18th, when, on account of the unpreparedness of the Commonwealth's attorney, Mr. Minetree Folks, it was postponed until October 28th.

The Idea is of opinion that this delay is simply an attempt to embarrass The Idea, because the attorney has no duty in the matter except to see to it that the lower court is reversed, for it becomes his duty to shut up in any case where the Commonwealth has erred as much as in this case. It will be recalled that Graves fined and bonded Leaman on Leaman's plea of guilty without any evidence being brought out and no evidence had ever come to the court that the editor had ever broken the peace or threatened to break the peace. Leaman, however, not only broke the peace and admitted it by pleading guilty, but also openly in the court threatened to "shed the blood" of the editor, and still the 'squire required the same bond of the editor that he did of the political crook who brutally assailed him, and though the constitution of the State guarantees "speedy trials," still the State's attorney, without any sensible reason for it, delays the rendering of justice by having the trial postponed.

DEVILMENT AT THE FAIR

The Idea does not like to criticise the fair association, but the time has come when it is absolutely necessary if our standards of decency are to be maintained.

During the fair just closed the fair association, in their greed for gold, sold concessions for immoral purposes. Not only was there licensed gambling for money with wheels of fortune, but startlingly indecent plays were exhibited and permitted by the management, as was also open gambling at the races. Besides this, whiskey and other spirituous drinks were sold under one license at many different places.

Now, if the court holds, as we are told it does, that one license is sufficient for many places because they are all on the same corporation grounds, then by the same reasoning no women and children could be admitted to the grounds—the place of sale of spirituous drinks.

What a pity that the fair association could not content itself with profits on decent and moral amusements without selling privileges to gamblers and immoral shows!

The most hurtful and immoral thing the editor has ever seen in a varied career over a vast territory for more than thirty years, was the vile and indecent and lewd kuchy-kuchy show at the State Fair last week. We had never attended such an exhibition, but knew it was an immoral affair, and since we are fighting such things it became necessary to see what the affair really was.

And let us say right here that unless the preachers familiarize themselves with the facts as to what is happening under their very noses they never will be able to effectually fight evil.

In former years these same immoral privileges were let by Morgan Mills, who owned all the amusement concessions. This year, though they were nominally held by another, it is reported that they were really owned by the same Morgan R. Mills, councilman and slick politician, who, as a servant of the law, should be found, above all others, standing for rigid

law enforcement, but who, on the other hand, stands for, and is responsible for, the vilest deed a man can be charged with—namely, corrupting the morals of the youth of the State.

And who are the officers of this fair association, who are the real culprits, just as much, if not more, than the small company of immoral ones who run the little show?

The fair association officers are:

Henry Fairfax, President.

Alfred B. Williams, Vice President.

Allen Chambers, Secretary.

Oliver J. Sands, Treasurer.

Samuel Cohen, Vice President.

Mark R. Lloyd, General Manager.

These are the men who have been dealing in immorality for gain. They stand high in the community, but are they any better than the vile woman who makes her living by prostitution when they sell such wares for money?

It was just such hypocrites as these that Jesus called whitened sepulchres. He said of such men, who were high in the Church and sanctioned immoral acts: "Woe unto you, hypocrites! for you are like unto whitened sepulchres, which, indeed, appear beautiful outward, but are within full of dead men's bones, and of all uncleanness." These men, because of their positions in the community, "outwardly appear righteous unto men, but within are full of hypocrisy and iniquity."

Let no man censure THE IDEA for telling on this rotten dealing at the fair. The good men of the community need not hold up their hands in holy horror while their sons are led into vice and crime by their silent permission of such indecent shows. They never could have existed in the past if the good men of the community had known of it, and such exposal of crime as THE IDEA gives is the only method that ever yet broke up such doings. It's up to the fair association to get decent.

No young man could see this performance and not carry away with him a picture so intensely stamped on his memory as to be the uppermost thing in his mind for days—a picture that in all probability would lead him to licentiousness and crime. On the Sunday following the fair neatly-dressed boys

were seen going along one of the residential streets loudly and boisterously cracking foul jokes about the "hucky kuchy."

CARTOONS.

The Idea has added a new feature in the shape of cartoons. In this number the consternation of the council over the coming of government by commission is portrayed in a graphic manner. It shows the upsetting of the grafters.

Get The Idea each week if you want to keep in touch with the affairs of the city which the daily papers are afraid to publish.

ALVEY GUILTY

But Will They Get Him

The evidence before the investigating committee shows that Edward Alvey is, beyond doubt, guilty of defrauding the city. The statements of the negro that Alvey paid him for his part, the fact that Alvey shook hands with the driver after the negro's trial on a warrant sworn out by Alvey for stealing from him, the testimony that many saw the driver throw off stone on five separate occasions, all show that Alvey was criminally guilty of robbing the city. The question now is. Is the Commonwealth's attorney big enough to prosecute and convict Alvey, or is he afraid that a real trial will expose others higher up?

You know it won't do to turn on the light if it shows up city officials.

WHAT THE ALVEY TRIAL SHOWS

The Alvey trial shows that the city pays about 18 per cent. more than other people for grain; that the engineer's office

has no check on the weights of grain or other purchases; that the engineer paid for grain on the strength of the tickets furnish to that department from Mr. Alvey without checking up by the weighmaster's records. (The city paid in one case alone for 1,000 pounds of grain too much, although Mr. Alvey had been informed by the weighmaster that the larger amount was an error. The City Engineer never did get the correct figure, so lax is the city in its purchases.)

LIQUOR LICENSES GRANTED TO CONVICTS

The law requires that liquor licenses shall be granted to men of good reputation and yet we find that a license is held by James R. Conway, an ex-penitentiary convict. Conway runs a saloom at 706 East Broad street, and on last Saturday night shot and killed Robert Torrence in front of his bar.

The Times-Dispatch in giving an account of the affair stated that Conway was taken to the city jail "and made as comfortable as possible."

It seems that barkeepers in Richmond are the favored class and, even though murderers and convicts, are made "as comfortable as possible."

This little affair ought to give the citizens of Richmond some conception of the rottenness which underlies Richmond politics. When an ordinary prisoner is jailed you don't hear that "he is made as comfortable as possible," but if he is a convict and murderer and a barkeeper, then "he is made as comfortable as possible."

We wonder how long it has been since it was considered that an ex-convict had a good reputation. If an ex-convict has a good reputation THE IDEA would enquire what the court considers a bad reputation.

Or perhaps the court don't consider reputation at all, but simply decides such cases on other grounds. If so, what are the other considerations? Next!

TO MY SWEETHEART.

Each mountain grand, each meadow green,
Each rugged glen the hills between,
Brings me the wish that thou wert there
With me it's loveliness to share.

Each luscious fruit, each lowly flower,
Each verdant breeze from fragrant bower
Brings to my sight thine angel smile
Tho' I'm agone ten thousand mile.

The violet in modest robe,
Lifts up each royal purple lobe
And whispers of thy modesty,
Adorned in royal majesty.

The dewdrop in the morning light
Looks at me with its crystal sight,
And I behold thy nature true
In orbs of morning blossoms blue.

Just now the graceful columbine—
Its petals all incarnadine—
Did speak me of thy nature's grace,
And bring to mind thy lovely face.

Each passion song, each melody
That swells the mocker's throat with glee,
Or bursts the wrennie's little breast,
With joy and gladness ever blest,

Brings back the music of thy voice,
And I with all the birds rejoice,
And think that wert thou there with me
This earth, indeed, were heavenly.

—Alyn O'Dare.

S. L. LEDMAN

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HOUSE IS ON FIRE. WAKE UP!
OH! FORGET IT!

MY HOUSE IS INSURED WITH THE

HARTFORD FIRE INSURANCE CO.

AND

To make a long story short, his slumbers were not in the least disturbed

Yawning with that peaceful sense of security, which is an evidence of surety, he dropped gently into the land of nod, and dreamed a revelation—the check, for there was a check forthcoming, covering all damages. There was no trouble about the settlement, there never is, when you deal with the HARTFORD PEOPLE. While some companies are squabbling about minor points in a settlement, we are writing new business.

PHONE MADISON 2574-J

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FIRE & ACCIDENT INSURANCE

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RICHMOND, VA.

PRIZES FOR BOYS

"THE IDEA" WILL GIVE PRIZES TO

Newsboys who get the greatest number of weekly subscribers and other prizes to those who sell the most copies.

The Contest will begin with the 1st of November and boys desiring to compete should begin today to work for their weekly subscriptions.

Boys should leave their names at the time of getting their papers so that we may keep an accurate record of their sales.

Some time ago THE IDEA gave away a Watch and nine other valuable prizes, and the winning boys did good work. One boy selling 112 copies of THE IDEA of one issue. There is good money in it for the boys besides the prizes.

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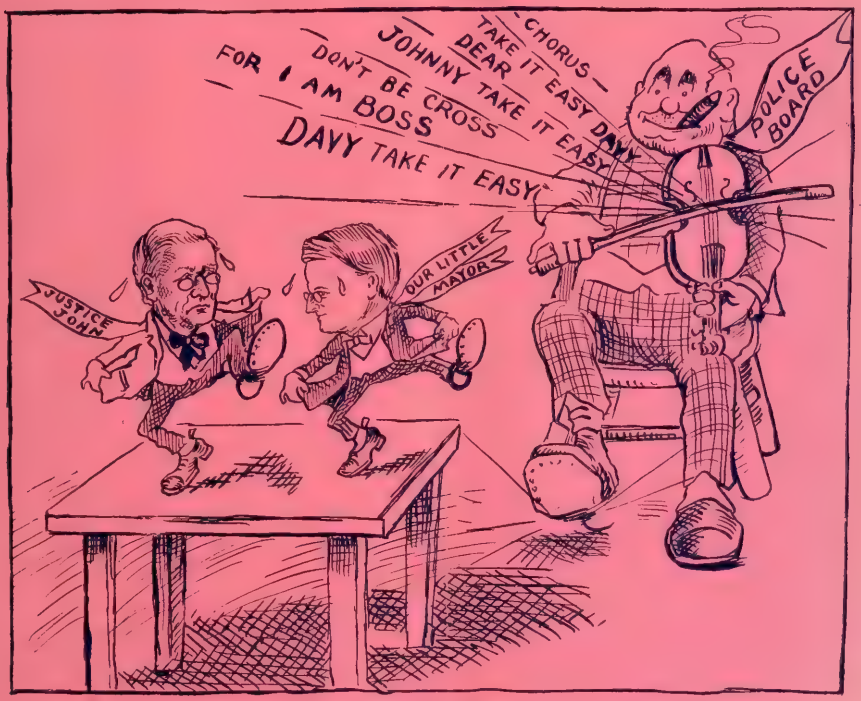
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THE IDEA

A SIGN OF THE TIMES

Vol. III Oct. 30, 1909 No. 22

$2.00 A YEAR



DANCING TO THE TUNE OF THE POLICE BOARD!

WHO PAYS THE FIDDLER?

For Sale At All News Stands

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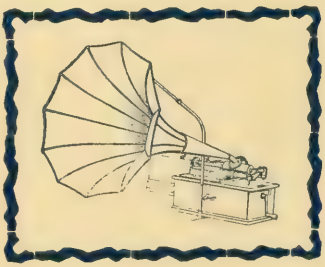
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THE IDEA

A Sign of the Times

VOL. III OCTOBER 30, 1909 No. 22

5 CENTS A COPY $2.00 A YEAR

Published Weekly on Saturday by ADON A. YODER,
904 Capitol Street, Richmond, Va.

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JOHN M. KING

Make Him Pay

The former associates of John M. King in the City Council seem to have felt that they owed to him a debt of gratitude for going to jail for certain crooked work a few years ago, for G. K. Pollock and Morgan Mills, who were members of the committee with King, but who did not get caught, are still members of the council which awards contracts to Mr. King to furnish coal to the city. Now, Inspector Beck finds the coal furnished to the city by Mr. King so inferior that it cannot be used by the city and the committee now has to buy coal at a higher price from another company because King has violated his contract.

You don't hear anything about the council making King pay the difference. Oh, no! They simply let him off without even making him pay for the difference between the value of his low-grade coal and the better stuff he contracted to furnish. Can it be that the city, after all, did not have any written

contract with Mr. King and, therefore, they cannot make him pay for failure to comply?

It turned up in the Alvey investigation that Engineer Bolling did not have any written contract with Alvey, although the council had awarded such a contract.

The truth is, the city is so loosely run that an investigation shows up unbusiness-like and lax and loose methods and criminal negligence that had never been heard of before.

Has the city really ever had any contract with Mr. King's company?

SAME OLD CROWD

City Jail Condemned

Who is Responsible?

Now that Dr. Levy has condemned the city jail which, since the contract was let a few years ago, has cost the citizens more than $90,000, it is well to enquire who is responsible for the rotten work. Messrs. Adams and Pollock, who are still in the council, voted for this, although the City Engineer condemned it before it was built. John M. King, who happened to get caught in dirty council work and was confined in this jail "as comfortable as possible," was another who helped fake the city with this jail. It is a notable fact that the three members of the committee who opposed this crooked deal are no longer in the council. Let the citizens notice that those who are responsible for losses to the city and for crooked work seldom die and never resign.

With government by commission the city won't be throwing away $90,000 for grafters and rotten jails on the flimsy excuse that the rotten committee had no time "for the endless task to arrange all the details to suit" an experienced engineer.

If you pay a small commission to see that the city is run rightly it will be run rightly. If you expect fifty-six men who are not paid except in graft for their work you not only get a rotten deal and loose your money expended, but you have not got any particular individual you can hold responsible for the blunder.

JUDGE WITT SENTENCES CONWAY TO PRISON

Then Says "Is of Good Moral Character and Good Reputation"

In the last issue of THE IDEA we mentioned the fact that the court had granted a license to an ex-convict, but we did not know at that time that Judge Witt, who granted the license, was the very judge that passed sentence on Conway for robbery, and, therefore, had no excuse for not knowing that Conway did not bear a "good reputation in the community." Yet this same Judge Witt granted a license to Conway and certified that "the court is fully satisfied that applicant is a registered voter of this city and is a person of good moral character and good reputation."

Now the people want to know how Judge Witt satisfied himself that Conway was "a registered voter" when the law will not let a man be a registered voter who is an ex-convict unless he has been pardoned, and the records show that Conway was not pardoned.

The people want to know how the judge satisfied himself that Conway was "of good moral character," when his own court, while he was sitting, had sentenced Conway to the penitentiary.

The people want to know how Judge Witt satisfied himself that Conway bore "a good reputation" when he must have

known that Conway's reputation was exactly opposite from good.

No wonder that the papers of the State are ridiculing Richmond and editorially asking the question, Is human life cheap in Richmond? when a judge of the Hustings Court says that an ex-convict has a good reputation and grants him a license to dispense the drink which requires more care in handling than any other known poison.

Truly the liquor dealers of Richmond must have a strong hold on our courts when they can make a judge swallow such medicine.

If The Idea had no other reason for desiring to put the saloon out of Virginia it would be because the saloons have corrupted our courts, have stolen our elections, dominate our councils and Legislature and decide to suit themselves nearly all important questions which come up, either in popular election or for decision before the executive or legislative or judicial branches of city and state government. Every politician realizes that he has to make his bow to the saloons before getting any office of importance unless for some reason or other other special interests are able to overcome that powerful opposition, which is very seldom the case.

Never will the saloon and its agent, the crooked politician and corrupt political boss, be eliminated from political power in the cities until the cities adopt a more sensible form of government by having the cities affairs run by a *small* body of men elected by *all the people* instead of by wards.

Car Conductor Shoots Negro for a Five Cent Piece

Corporation Abuse

For some time past power has been granted to the street railway company to use the arm of the law to enforce their

petty rules and regulations, but the evils of this delegation of authority to irresponsible young men was not fully brought home to the people until last week, when a car conductor shot a negro on Broad street for simply getting off the car and walking away without paying his fare. Of course, no one should be allowed to ride without pay, and yet no man should be shot down in cold blood simply to collect a 5-cent piece for any one, much less for a cold-blooded corporation like this street railway company has shown itself to be. If you or I are murderously assaulted on the street the police refuse to arrest the offender until we pay some little police magistrate a half dollar to swear out a warrant. If we are robbed of $100 we must detect the criminal and then swear out a warrant, but if the car company is deprived of a 5-cent piece the offender may be arrested and shot for simply walking away from the employee of the company, whose police authority he has every reason to doubt. Now do you want to know why the street car company is favored in the collection of its debts while you and I are not?

Well, the answer is brief.

They used to allow the councilmen to ride on passes until the law put an end to that. They still have their hands on the police force, because they allow the members of the Police Board to ride on free passes, although the law says they shall not be so allowed.

The law says the Police Board shall forfeit their office for accepting any free transportation whatever, and yet the political ring in Richmond is so corrupt that they continue to ride on free passes and the Commonwealth's Attorney refuses to do his sworn duty in prosecuting these public officials for law violation.

Just so long as the Mayor and the Commonwealth's Attorney have no regard for their oaths of office just so long will it be possible for any one to be shot down in cold blood by the employees of a corporation that has its fingers on the officials of the city.

This is what ring rule does in Richmond.

Punishment should fit the criminal. Not the crime.—*Elbert Hubbard.*

CHIEF OF POLICE

Playing Subordinate in a Circus Parade

Citizens were very much chagrined on circus day to see Major Werner, Chief of Police, walking up the street in front of the big parade directing the route of the line of march. Now THE IDEA don't believe in laying too much stress on position, but on the other hand it believes in the dignity of all honest labor, and yet the occupant of any prominent position should have sufficient conception of the importance of his office to use ordinary care to maintain proper respect for his office.

It is certainly to be regretted that the Chief of Police should so forget his office as to trot along up the street in front of a circus parade when he has 125 subordinates to look after such detail work. As a matter of fact, the Chief of Police in Richmond is really chief only in name and instead of acting as real acting head of the Police Department he is really nothing more than the messenger of the Police Board, which, under the present management, has usurped the authority of the chief and takes on itself all powers which the constitution and statutes have given to the chief.

VIOLATION OF ELECTION LAWS

By City Committee

" * * * Any person * * * who shall give to any person whomsoever, any information about any official ballot shall be

declared guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be fined $500 and imprisoned in jail six months."

The above is an abbreviated statement from the Virginia election laws, and yet the papers tell us that the State Democratic Committee is sending out to each voter "a sample ballot properly marked."

If the Democratic machine in the State is willing to resort to such crooked means to further its interests then it is time for the people to be careful how they vote on election day. The fact is, that the machine seems to be scared almost to death for fear the Republicans will elect a "Secretary of the Commonwealth," who will be able by his position to expose the crooked work that has been going on in this State's governmental affairs for such a long time.

FRAUD

Bryan Papers News Suppressors

THE IDEA has frequently had occasion to refer to the fact that *The Times-Dispatch* and *The News Leader* do not publish the news of the State which is of vital interest to the citizens of the State. THE IDEA does not criticise a paper simply for taking an editorial position on one side of a question if, while it poses as a *news*paper, it gives the news concerning both sides.

If, however, that paper absolutely refuses to be fair and when a very important piece of news makes its appearance actually suppresses the facts in the case in the interest of their side of the question, then it is time for THE IDEA to show them up. Every paper has a certain body of readers who are readers of practically no other paper. Thus the readers of *The Times-Dispatch* naturally look to that paper for the news and form their conclusions accordingly. There is perhaps no subject that is being discussed in Virginia more than that of

prohibition, and since the people of Roanoke have recently had an election on this question the papers of the State have realized the importance of getting all the facts in connection with that election.

The Journal of October 17th printed several columns of a press dispatch from Roanoke under the big head, "Charge of Fraud," which contained a very lengthy official detailed statement of the fraud perpetrated by a combination of Republicans and whiskey men on the citizens of the State. The statement covered parts of five columns on three pages of *The Journal* and then *The Times-Dispatch* of the next day brushed aside the whole matter and suppressed the truth before their readers by printing a quotation of only *three and one-quarter lines* from that statement. Thus the readers of *The Times-Dispatch* only have never had an opportunity to get hold of the real facts about the question of the Roanoke election, although the State is tremendously aroused concerning that diabolical affair. If the citizens of a community after a fair election decide to retain the saloon THE IDEA has nothing to say, but if it is proven that an election was had in which a mammoth fraud was perpetrated then THE IDEA will speak forth, and the papers of the State, whether wet or dry, should expose fraud whenever found.

When a paper, however, refuses to disclose a case of fraud like this it is evidence not only of unfairness but of morally criminal crookedness, and such a paper deserves the sharpest censure of the public.

There is absolutely no doubt that fraud is the reason for Roanoke being wet to-day. Bristol is wet to-day because of purchased and illegal votes, and THE IDEA stands for submission of this question to the people of the State, because of the fact that so much outside money is spent in the cities where the electoral machinery is in the hands of saloons that it is next to impossible to get a fair election in the cities on any question. THE IDEA stands for a square deal and you never get a square deal where all the machinery of government is controlled by saloon politicians.

That's Richmond's trouble to-day. The reason that certain crooks are in office to-day is not that the good people of Rich-

mond want them there; it is because the saloons want them there and they are so organized that they get what they want. As the Roanoke statements so well puts it: "If there were no other cause for abolishing the saloons than participation in corrupt politics that would be sufficient."

FOR MAYOR RICHARDSON

Copy of a Letter

RICHMOND, VA., October 27, 1909.

Hon. D. C. Richardson, Mayor of Richmond, Va.:

DEAR SIR.—Some time ago I called on the Commonwealth's Attorney in reference to the open violation of certain State laws.

At that time he stated that it would be his duty to bring to the attention of the Chief of Police any information which he might get along this line.

I, therefore, informed him that whiskey was openly sold in the houses of ill fame on Mayo, Franklin and Fourteenth streets not only without licenses, but also on Sundays and after saloons close in particular.

Having waited a reasonable length of time without any action being taken on this information, I write to bring to your official attention as chief executive of the city not only these law violations but also the failure of the attorney for the State or the Police Department, of which you are head, to take cognizance of these facts.

He was also informed of the existence of these houses of ill fame which the officers of the law have openly ignored contrary to the law itself.

He said that on such information it would be his duty to so inform the Police Department. This matter has not been attended to.

I call your attention to the fact that two sworn wit-

nesses have, on oath, in the Conway case told of the existence of two such houses of ill fame, and though some time has elapsed no prosecution has been made.

The fact that such sworn information as this does not meet with speedy prosecution of the offenders, not only against decency and morality, but against the majesty of the law and the integrity of the State, leads many to believe that there is truth in the statements repeatedly made here that these offenders are free from prosecution because they pay for protection.

I trust you will not fail to see that you cannot afford to ignore, as Mayor of the city, the tremendous sentiment of this intelligent community for strict enforcement of the law, especially when sworn testimony is already available for prosecution.

I again call your attention to the violation of the law against selling goods on Sunday which the police are instructed *not to see.*

For the present I leave the matter with you and hope that the good citizens of Richmond can count on you to help *them* make a law-abiding community out of the city.

Yours truly,

ADON A. YODER,
Publisher of The Idea.

THE PEOPLE BE DAMMED

If we can buy the Bosses

A former street railway magnate tells in *The Saturday Evening Post* of recent date how the railway companies rob the people through the political bosses. His remarks show why the telephone and street railway companies of Richmond have found it cheaper to buy Saunders and Leaman and Pollock and councilmen than to worry over the people when they wanted to rob the people. "The professional set who make an asset

of popularity are the politicians who capitalize their specialty and offer it for sale to the highest bidder. I find that it is cheaper to buy my popularity of the politicians than to try to buy it direct from the public." The writer must have had Richmond in mind when he wrote in reference to some Southern cities: "I invariably marvel at the gentle treatment with which the officials of the companies are treated by the public and city administrations."

SOLD OUT AGAIN.

Pollock in His Old Role.

Since writing the above the Street Committee of the council has met and Mr. Pollock has succeeded in fooling the committee into letting the Richmond and Henrico Railway Company go ahead and retain their franchise, although they had forfeited it by their failure to live up to their contract.

Pollock, elected ostensibly by the people, instead of speaking for the people, speaks for the capitalists.

Pollock uses his office as servant of the people to make money as servant of the enemies of the people. By his own confession he comes as the tool of the capitalists who had been "hustling like the devil to get the money" to go on with the work.

And they say the people elected Pollock! Truly, "it is cheaper to buy popularity of the politicians than it is to buy it direct from the people."

ASLEEP AT THE SWITCH, OR THE HARE AND THE TURTLE.

BY J. J. REDMOND.

As the election draws near we hear all kinds of funny stories on the candidates and their friends, so I thought I

would write one of my own, including a bit of buisness, fun and pathos. So here we go.

Now, of course, we all know that poor old Satterfield went to sleep at the switch and now he is trying to sue the railroad for damages. He was on the wrong line. He should have been on "The Strickly Business Anti-Graft Line," which uses the block system, and commission government. In other words he got caught off third base, after making a three-base hit, and is now delaying the game kicking with the umpire. Mr. "Walter Christian." The umpire is not put there to tell you when to run back. That is the coacher's place (the City Committee). What would have happened to him fifty years ago had Lee, Jackson or Mosby caught him asleep on the picket line? Would he have gotten a gold medal or a lead one? They would have shot him to death. You have no pledge to break on my ticket, as I am the only man on the ticket. The Primary Gang failed to come up, and were left at the post. I was surprised at some of the old boys, but I was not at all surprised to see a member of the "Board of Aldermen," who had been working for nothing (?) for fifteen years. Look at The Idea of last Saturday and see if you can pick out the sleepy alderman. No push, no go ahead, no nothing. All the time he slept in that fifteen years cost the city untold thousands of "American dollars," but when he goes to sleep now it is his loss.

He says he spent $1,500 and only said "Vote for me." Now, I haven't spent $100 and have written and delivered forty-eight speeches. He has now made up his mind to violate section 1221 of the Virginia election laws in regard to guide tickets, which means $500 fine and six months in jail. Why don't some of you fellows tell him to go ahead, the whole thing is unconstitutional. That's what Dick Brophy said to me at the Old Market last week. But the law was dated September 1909, and signed by D. Q. Eggleston, Secretary of the Commonwealth. Of course, if I wanted any constitutional law explained I would call on Mr. Buck Royall, Charles Meredith or some of that class of lawyers, but where did he go? The papers said he and the bunch ran up to see Clyde Saunders. They didn't want law, they wanted crooked work, and it seems

they got it all right, because the same papers said next day that the meeting was a secret one, and that they had it all fixed to spring on the enemy early election morning.

When Saint Peter tried to walk on the water and found it would not hold him, if he had called for Clyde he would surely have been a drowned man. Saint Peter, however, was a wise man and knew exactly who to call on and he was saved.

It would look strange if Satterfield was elected and his own built jail would fall down on him and crush him to death. If I am elected I will have a special iron safe built to sit in while on duty until they build me my new "Shockoe jail" on Grace street, between Seventeenth and Eighteenth.

If "Topeka Joe and Shady Mike" would give him a call he couldn't hold them ten minutes. I wonder how he voted on the Cohen's alley proposition, the new jail and the electric light franchise, and all the rotten stuff left behind as a monument of the greed of him and his friends. I know he worked overtime to get the Weather Bureau building out of Richmond, but he failed.

Well, thanks to the sleepy aldermen and the switch engine I have my name at the present time on about 25,000 tickets to his *nothing,* and it will take many a lead pencil factory to get rid of them. A man as forgetful would not do for City Sergeant. Suppose he would lock a man up for six months and forget to let him out for six years! See what it might cost the city and State! If the Board of Aldermen and City Council don't hurry up and buy those street car tickets for Coroner Taylor and fix the law to keep me from distributing my "Anti-Graft" literature, the election will be over and I will be elected, and honest men will get their dues. So hurry up and get a move on you. My work for nothing, friends!

I want it understoood that this election has to be carried on strictly according to the letter of the law, for I myself know the law thoroughly, and will report any one attempting to evade or break it.

This means business.

J. J. Redmond.

The "Anti-Graft, Strictly Business Candidate for City Sergeant." —Adv.

WHICH IS SUPREME IN VIRGINIA, THE TIMES-DISPATCH OR THE LAW?

Do our laws amount to anything or are they any good. Just look at this for a starter. Here is the law:

Any member of the Electoral Board, the printer who shall print the official ballots provided for by this act, any judge of election, or any person who shall give or sell to any person whomsoever, except where it is distinctly provided by this act, any official ballot *or copy,* or any *fac simile of the same,* or any *information about the same,* or shall counterfeit, or attempt to counterfeit, the same, shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and upon conviction thereof shall be fined five hundred dollars and imprisoned in jail for six months. It shall be the duty of the judges of election to see that the provisions of this act are strictly carried out.

But *The Times-Dispatch* is supreme in Virginia. *The Times-Dispatch* has been printing for several issues a guide ballot showing all the candidates and directing how to scratch those other than Democrats. It was clipped out to insert in this number, but The Idea did not want to lay itself open to arrest for violating the law. So come back to the subject: Who is who in Virginia? Is it us or *The Times-Dispatch.* I am so sorry for them to have to spend six months in jail, but we would like to have their $500 to spend during the campaign. Now, this is no fake.

I hereby notify and report this flagrant violation of the law to every judge of election and demand their arrest. Now let's see how many officials know their duty.

If the law is any good, enforce it. If not tear it out of the book because it will cause trouble. As I said to a member of the City Council the other day, "Why, Harry, you are not allowed inside of the dead line but once, and that is to vote." He said, "O, yes we are, we belong to the City Committee."

Poor, deluded mortals. They think so much of the primary that they forget the real thing and don't know it when they see it.

—Adv. J. J. Redmond.

DIFFERENCE OF OPINION.

Dr. Gordon says our jail is O. K.—a model of cleanliness and is as well kept as any jail in the United States.

Dr. Levy said a week later that the jail fairly *reeked* in filth and that for the thirty minutes the committee was in there they were all made sick. Who must we believe? This is as bad, if not worse, than Cook and Peary. The only way to decide is to go down and see for ourselves.

—Adv. J. J. REDMOND.

I do the very best I know how—the very best I can; and I mean to keep doing so until the end. If the end brings me out all right, what is said against me won't amount to anything. If the end brings me out wrong, ten angels swearing I was right would make no difference.—*Abraham Lincoln.*

If you want work well done select the Busy Man; the Other Kind has No Time.—*Elbert Hubbard.*

Man is superior to woman—when he is, and when he isn't, he isn't.

To escape criticism: Do nothing, say nothing, be nothing.—*Elbert Hubbard.*

S. L. LEDMAN

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"THE IDEA" WILL GIVE PRIZES TO

Newsboys who get the greatest number of weekly subscribers and other prizes to those who sell the most copies.

The Contest will begin with the 1st of November and boys desiring to compete should begin today to work for their weekly subscriptions.

Boys should leave their names at the time of getting their papers so that we may keep an accurate record of their sales.

Some time ago THE IDEA gave away a Watch and nine other valuable prizes, and the winning boys did good work. One boy selling 112 copies of THE IDEA of one issue. There is good money in it for the boys besides the prizes.

TO HOUSEKEEPERS....

You wish the best Flavoring Extracts, Essences and Spices for your Table.

The best Soap, Perfumery and Toilet Requisites for your family and guests.

The best Steel Enameled, Rubber and Glass Goods for your sick.

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PREPAREDNESS

IS the Evidence of Foresight which crops out in the man who thinks. It is this that distinguishes him from the ordinary man, causes him to be called conservative.

PREPAREDNESS IS SELF-PRESERVATION—The First Law of Nature.

People should not let their inert optomism, which is the outcome of good health, prevent them from being prepared for sickness or accidents, should it come their way.

Your Pride Should Stimulate Your Desire to be Protected.
Get a Health and Accident Policy Today.
Sickness is a Crime Against Nature.
Do not let the Penalty be a Lifelong Obligation to Stranger's or Friend's.
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SEE ME PHONE Madison 2574-J **George C. Jefferson,** *FIRE & ACCIDENT INSURANCE* *Times Building, 10th & Bank Sts., Richmond, Va.*

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J. J. REDMOND

FOR

CITY SERGEANT

THE MAN WITH THE FIVE SENSES

MADE IN RICHMOND

ELECTION, Tuesday, Nov. 2, 1909

VOTE EARLY

WEEKLY 5c THE COPY

THE IDEA

A SIGN OF THE TIMES

Vol. III Nov. 6, 1909 No. 23

$2.00 A YEAR



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A Sign of the Times

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FRANK CUNNINGHAM

Deliberate Misappropriation

Did Not "Forget Checks" as Daily Papers Falsely Report

It is always an extremely disagreeable duty to note the downfall of a reputable citizen, and while this paper does enter with a certain zeal into the exposure of a common grafter and crook, it very reluctantly undertakes the exposure of a high and popular official of the city government and one who, on account of many excellent qualities, has won the confidence of the citizens.

It is, however, none the less a duty for any organ of publicity to show up evil even if found in the house of its friends, and so THE IDEA, despite strong pressure to smooth the matter over, publishes the facts as they are in the matter of misap-

propriation of funds by Mr. Frank Cunningham, Collector of City Taxes for the city of Richmond.

The newspapers of the city have been so desirous of covering up anything that reflected on officeholders that they have published falsehoods which completely pull the wool over the eyes of the people, and if it were not for The Idea the people would never have known that there was wrong-doing in the financial offices of the city.

The papers state that Mr. Cunningham "forgot to send money on time" and "forgot the city's license checks."

Mr. Cunningham did not forget these checks. On the other hand he *deposited* these checks to his own credit and held the proceeds "to his own use" in direct violation of law.

He collected $2,000 in liquor licenses in April and should have turned the money over immediately, but instead held it for five or six months, turning it over to the Treasurer on September 28th.

The city charter requires—

Section 49. The Collector shall make report, in writing, under oath, to the Auditor weekly, and oftener if required, the amount of all moneys collected by him, and shall pay the same into the city treasury in the manner hereinbefore provided."

The Times-Dispatch, under date of November 2nd, states that Mr. Cunningham's "explanation was that the money had been *mislaid in the vault of his office* and had only come to light just previous to being paid over to the City Treasurer."

As a matter of fact, this looked like such a flimsy excuse that The Idea reporter called on the special accountant, and on direct inquiry learned that Mr. Cunningham had not "mislaid" these checks and had not "forgotten" them, but, on the other hand, had appropriated them to his own use and *deposited them to his own credit in bank.*

Section 50 of the city charter says: "The Collector is expressly prohibited from keeping the money of the city in his hands or in the hands of any person or corporation to his use beyond the time prescribed (one week) for the payment of the same into the city treasury, and *any violation* of this provision shall subject him to immediate *removal from office.*"

This is a very emphatic and clear law and allows no misunderstanding of its meaning. The Collector has, by his own act—if the law is enforced by the Mayor—vacated his office and the Mayor makes himself a party to the crime when he deliberately refuses to abide by his oath to see to it that all the laws of the State are enforced in the city.

In the absence of such a provision the council would be responsible, but section 11 of the charter says the Mayor "shall have power to remove all subordinate officers for misconduct in office."

It will, then, be seen that the Mayor had no alternative but to remove the Collector *immediately,* but on the other hand it is reported in *The Times-Dispatch* that the Mayor said that it did not appear that any action was necessary at this time on his part, save to see that the delinquency was not repeated.

Can it be that the Mayor has been fooled, as the citizens have, into thinking that the Collector is simply guilty of an "oversight" or "forgetting" of the checks which laid "in his vault" or "in his desk" for six months?

The Mayor is quoted as saying "the four checks had been deposited with the Treasurer even before the examination of the books of the office was begun," as if the Mayor thought the checks were recently deposited. Did he know that these checks were deposited in April "to the Collector's credit?"

The Mayor has either been deceived or he is a party to the game to hush up this matter of the people's affairs, and his quoted statement is certainly calculated to mislead the people. It looks as though so much pressure had been brought to bear on this whole matter for secrecy that even the Mayor has been mislead and does not realize the truth or the gravity of the offence, or else is dictated to by the ringsters, who gave him the office and who now want him to "lay low," for his statement leads one to believe that he thought it was simply a "forgetting of the checks in his vault."

On the other hand, if the Mayor knows all the facts—and there is no reason why he should not—he is again guilty of a violation of his oath in not seeing that all the laws are enforced. In the past the Mayor has set up the absurd and ridiculous

claim that he need not regard the law if he thought it wise to ignore the law, and now again does he ignore the law and his duty by letting the guilty go free.

Rumor has it that the Mayor *did desire* to do his duty and put the Collector out, but that it was on the eve of election and it would not only hurt Democratic chances at the polls, but Mr. Cunningham was the party nominee and would go back in again at the first of the year, as if such a flimsy excuse would justify a man in refusing to do his present duty.

This is not the first offence of Mr. Cunningham. He has been guilty of similar transactions in the past and they were hushed up at the time by the finance committee. This finance committee had no right to keep these shady transactions from the people, and yet we learn that they would have done it this time if it had been possible, but they learned that The Idea knew that there was something wrong, and so to clear their skirts they were unwilling to hush the matter up entirely, although if it were not for The Idea's publication to-day of the real truth the people would be made to believe that no intentional wrong had been committed.

Every member of that finance committee knows that the offense is so serious that if the law were obeyed not only would the officer lose his job but in any other city he would in all probability be publicly prosecuted in the courts. It becomes the duty to-day of the commonwealth's attorney to prosecute for misappropriation of funds, however disagreeable it may be to him personally, but no one who knows the powers that elect and retain the attorney in office expect him to do anything in the premises.

The head of a very prominent business house said on the street that such a matter would not be tolerated one moment by his concern, and it is safe to say that no business house in the city would retain in its employ a man who would "borrow" from the concern without their knowledge or consent $2,000 for five months and then replace it just before an examination of the books is made. The papers tried to make the people believe that there was no intentional wrong doing when the city has actually lost coin of the realm by the transaction and if the collector had died before Sept. 28th the city would have been the loser by more than $2,050.

It is evident from the words of the report that the collector has not even offered to pay the city the interest due on the money appropriated, and yet all the papers pass the matter by with an attempt to keep it quiet just as they minimized the corruption and graft when the investigation in 1903 showed that Saunders and Leaman and others were the worst kind of grafters and coruptionists. If these papers were not willing to be made parties to these crooked deals Richmond people would soon cast off the band of political crooks that make such things possible, but six years ago that said it was "perfectly legitimate business," and now they say no "wrongdoing."

If the papers of Richmond knew the facts and they had better facilities for knowing the facts than THE IDEA had, they have no excuse for stating that the "liquor checks" were kept or forgotten. These statements are absolutely false and as we go to press have not been corrected by any of the papers, and moreover not a single paper has dared to make a single editorial comment on the transaction.

The Leader conceals the truth by a very brief and deceptive article headed "Blames Cunningham for his Negligence" when that paper knew it was not negligence. *The Journal* also has a brief article on an obscure page as the *Leader* had it and entitles it, "Forgot City License Checks" which is absolutely false. What a shame that three daily papers of the city should contrive to decieve the people when the people's treasury is being used for private purposes.

It is frequently said that Richmond is a peculiar place; the people don't like to know about public wrong-doing; they return to office a malefatcor rather than put him out in the cold; they have one standard for public office and another for private life. We continually hear it said that the people here are different from everywhere else, etc., etc.

Now THE IDEA finds that nearly everybody believes this and yet we have not met so many people here that were as everybody reports them to be and we think that the people themselves have been slandered.

It is true that public matters are treated differently here and we have come to the conclusion that this is more because of the attitude of the papers than the temperament of the people

Richmond differs from other cities in that it has no daily paper that is willing to take a bold stand for official integrity. Richmond people are all right but people everywhere are influenced by the public press and if the press maintain a low moral standard then the officers of the city will maintain a low moral standard. If the press will smooth over and hush up official wrongdoing the public officials will continue their malefactions until the people think they can not overcome the evils.

The reason the people of Richmond don't arouse themselves against public wrongs is because they know that they will not be led to a correction of those evils by the daily papers of the city and so they drift into lethargy and the cause of the wrong must be laid at the door of the daily papers.

We charge that *The Times-Dispatch* and *The Leader* and *The Journal* are parties to the crimes which they conceal and that Richmond people would be better off by thousands and tens of thousands of dollars each year if the papers would publish the daily news as it comes to them instead of hushing the matter up. On the other hand, these papers join hands with the corruptionists to put out of office high-minded public men like Carlton McCarthy and do all in their power to retain in office those who have been caught in criminal acts. It is a remarkable fact that many of the city officials of Richmond have been caught red-handed and investigated and indicted and found guilty of various and sundry acts of immorality and crime while the man who did more to save untold hundreds of thousands of dollars to the citizens was kicked out to make place for a man who openly refuses to do his sworn duty and all this in Virginia and in Richmond where Patrick Henry made his famous speech for liberty and his famous fight against the ring.

CITIZENS AWAKE!

The Car Company Prepares to Fleece the People

The papers tell us that the Virginia Railway and Power Company, which is the owner of the street railways of the city,

proposes to ask for a new charter covering the entire system, and the newspapers of the city are helping to betray the people into the hands of this combination of capitalists by writing nice little articles telling the citizens how this company will improve its facilities and increase its mileage, etc., all the time beclouding the real intent of the corporation—namely, to get, now, while the city is run by the ring, one long-term franchise for all its little short-term franchises, many of which expire in the next few years. This company knows that after a short while Richmond will have a better government, which they cannot buy up. In the near future Richmond will be run on a business basis and all public facility corporations which desire favors from the city will have to pay at least in part for value received.

In Chicago the car companies have to pay a large percentage of the gross earnings to the city. This amounts to millions of dollars, and it is nothing but right.

Here in Richmond we give them the franchise and get nothing in return. This is worth millions and millions of dollars to the company, especially if these franchises are for long terms.

Let the citizens demand something in return for these big gifts to the wealthy corporations who are given the right for ninety-nine years to soak it to the people. We of this generation have no right to give away the next generation's rights.

1. Let's sell these valuable franchises.

2. Lets make the company keep up the streets along the line of the railways.

THE EDITOR WINS HIS APPEAL

Leaman Loses

On the 28th day of October, Thursday of last week, the case of the appeal from the decision of the police court by which the Editor of The Idea was ordered to give bond to keep

the peace because he was assaulted in the street by political boss "Dutch" Leaman, was called and the lower court was reversed without any argument by the commonwealth's attorney, all of which goes to show the truth of the claim of THE IDEA that a conspiracy existed to embarass THE IDEA by requiring excessive bond when there was no justification for it and by incurring lawyers' fees to protect the Editor in his rights.

This incident should show the people that the crooks can count on the aid of the courts of justice to suppress anything that attempts to stand for right.

The courts founded to insure justice used by confessed criminals as a means of injustice to those whose greatest crime is exposure of crime!

And in Richmond, cradle of American liberties!

REIGN OF CRIME

"Political"-Disorderly Housekeeper Given Light Sentence and Why

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The Idea's Letter Had Its Effect

On the 27th the Editor of THE IDEA sent a letter to the Mayor calling his attention to the sworn evidence convicting two parties of maintaining a house of ill fame. That letter appeared in THE IDEA on the 30th ult., and on the 28th the authorities hailed into court the two women who ran the places. One of these parties was fined $100 and jailed for 30 days, which sentence was appealed. The other case was postponed until the 2nd of November. Now this party, Sophie Malloy, operated a notorious assignation house on lower Main Street under the protection of the police department, for certain party officials were interested in the house. Justice John called the

place the worst in the city and yet read carefully how the case turned out.

There were two charges against the woman—one of selling whiskey without license and the other for keeping a disorderly house. She was dismissed on the first charge, although the evidence was convincing that she was guilty as she had sold to the Conway-Torrence crowd.

On the second charge, keeping a house of ill fame, her attorney, Mr. Pollock, plead guilty for her and she was fined one hundred dollars. On the similar charge Maggie Lee of 14 Jackson Street had been fined $100 and sentenced to jail for 30 days. Now the question arises why was this distinction made? And the answer is to be found in the fact that the Malloy woman, or, as the papers are careful to dignify the creature, "Miss Malloy," had a decided pull or influence with the powers that be. Her place has enjoyed the favors of those who have a strong influence with the police commissioners and the court, and it would have opened the eyes of the citizens if they could have seen the interest police commissioners and political powers had in the outcome as was evidenced by their presence and position in the police court.

The judge occupied a very uncomfortable position between his duty on the one hand and his desire to please the powers that be on the other, for these powers that be were on hand to see that things went well. Chris. Manning sat and Douglas Gordon stood behind Justice John and engaged him in conversation during the course of the trial. Gilbert Pollock represented the Malloy woman, while W. P. Leaman whispered in Pollock's ear and that combination of Manning, Gordon and Pollock, and Leaman with Justice John, is responsible for the fact that this notorious character, who has operated for years in the same place and known to the police the worst kind of a joint for the ruination of young girls and for the illegal meetings of married women with other men, was simply given a fine and no jail sentence was passed upon her, although for a similar offense another woman on the same kind of evidence, though not quite as convicting evidence of same parties was fined the same amount and jailed thirty days. There is absolutely no doubt that the woman who got the lesser sentence was guilty of the greater crime. But unfortunately for Maggie Lee, po-

lice commissioners and others in authority did not grace the occasion with their influential presence.

Justice John has no excuse to offer for his light sentence for so flagrant a crime.

The Idea has all along claimed that there was a corrupt alliance between the trade in vice and the police department and that was openly shown by the apparent reluctance of the judge in passing sentence and the lightness of the verdict and the presence of the police commissioners and others. Gilbert Pollock was visibly delighted at the outcome as were others interested. It is a shame on the fair name of the city that such bold schemes can be pulled off openly in courts of justice. And the Mayor, made by the political ring, his enemies if he knew it, dares not say a word against the gross miscarriage of justice.

But wait! A time of reckoning will come.

BOYS, WARNING!

Newsboys frequently report to the office that they have been robbed by other boys who offered to sell them Ideas at the regular office price to boys.

The boy thus offering to sell would get the money and then run off without delivering The Ideas or the boy would refuse to give enough change or would run off without giving any change or would give the wrong number of Ideas.

Let every boy take warning and refuse to buy Ideas from other boys. If you want Ideas get them at The Idea office. Nobody else has a right to sell Ideas at less than 5 cents a copy

COMMONWEALTH'S ATTORNEY.

We would like to know whether Mr. Folkes is employed to prosecute criminals or to protect them when they happen to be backed by politicians. This question is suggested by the way Mr. Folkes acted in the prosecution of the Malloy woman. He absolutely refused to make any stand for her prosecution, but got up for about a minute and actually hurt the Commonwealth's case by his weak and cowardly remarks in the presence of the political friends of "Miss Malloy."

HELP THE FALLEN BROTHER RISE

Help The Tax Payer

In the Fall election of 1906 Mr. W. A. Crenshaw opposed Mr. Frank Cunningham for city collector, and in a large meeting he exposed irregularities and misappropriations in the collector's office, and Mr. Cunningham, who was in the audience arose to reply but in the knowledge of his guilt, which had been kept secret from the people by a crooked finance committee, he was at a loss for words to reply to the attack when some friend called out "Give us a song, Frank," and then and there the noted singer's voice arose in the well known song, "Help the Fallen Brother Rise." The people were so overwhelmed by the beauty of the song that they forgot the confession of guilt contained in it and they returned Mr. Cunningham to office. Now THE IDEA has the heartiest sympathy for any fallen brother, but after a public offical has proven himself unworthy of public confidence on repeated occasions and has, after drawing a salary of $10,000 a year from the pockets of the people, misused other of the taxpayer's funds, then it is high time to call on the official for an accounting and to help the poor fallen taxpayer to arise with his burden which he is so ill able to bear.

Everybody is coming to know that the poor taxpayers of Richmond bear all the burden of taxation as they do elsewhere and THE IDEA is fighting for better government and more equitable taxation and more honesty and integrity in office in the name of the poor taxpayer.

"Help the fallen taxpayers rise."

HELP THE BOYS— THE PRIZE CONTEST!

Boys desiring to compete for the prizes to be given away for the month of November must comply with the following rules Two sets of prizes will be given. One set for obtaining regular customers; another for selling the largest numbers of copies during the month. In the first contest, the one for regular weekly customers, boys will be given blanks to have filled out

ordering THE IDEA to be brought regularly. Each one properly filled out by subscribers will entitle the carrier to ten points in the contest. The ten boys getting the greatest number of weekly subscribers will be declared the winners, and handsome presents will be awarded for the work.

Any boy may also compete in this contest by getting paid in advance yearly subscribers. Each yearly subscriber with $2 in cash in advance will count 100 points. Each six months subscriber with $1.00 in cash will count 50 points and each three months subscriber with 50 cents in cash will count 25 points. Thus if a boy gets 5 paid in advance yearly subscribers will get 500 points; 1 six months subscription, 50 points; 1 three months subscription, 25 points; thirty weekly subscriptions, 300 points.

IMPORTANT.

Every boy who gets IDEAS must enter his name and address or else he can not return his unsold IDEAS.

Each boy entering the contest for the greatest number of copies sold must certify that he himself sold the number credited to him at 5 cents a copy to bona-fide buyers and not to other newsboys.

When boys buy from each other they cannot have returned copies unsold.

Each boy from now on must enter his name in order to have the privilege of returning unsold copies of the IDEA.

Copies may be returned as late as Monday night.

See next number for further particulars. A $3.00 watch was given away in the last contest, besides nine other handsome prizes.

LETTER FROM DR. DODD

Professor of History, University of Chicago

The University of Chicago, Dept. of History.
5734 Washington Ave., Oct. 30, 1909.

My Dear Mr. Yoder:—Yours of Oct. 26 was forwarded to me here where I now live. I am very much interested in your

paper and if I lived in Virginia I should be a standing subscriber. You are doing Virginia a service very much like that which Patrick Henry rendered when he attacked the John Robinson Machine in 1763, though I believe none of the Robinson party resorted to personal encounter as a defense or counter-blow. In the end Henry prostrated the graft leaders of his day; but he could not help joining Richard Henry Lee and half a dozen others in the formation of a new machine which in its day did harm to Virginia—though there was never, I believe, a suspicion that Henry's machine rested on public plunder.

I have mentioned this historical episode or epoch to show how I feel on the subject; all good citizens ought all the time to be on their guard against machines and graft—especially Virginians—but a new machine will always arise on the ruins of the old. It has always been so; it will always continue, because the economic interests in any community will always unite to thwart real democracy. In Richmond in Judge Marshall's day a half dozen well-to-do slave owners dictated Richmond's policy and gave tacit or open license to the evils of the time; in our day a half dozen interests are behind the bosses and the papers, their allies, and while you may, and ought to, put down the bosses you do better to show up the so-called respectable interests which tell the bosses what they may do. Six men rule Chicago and all the graft, all the vice and all the violence in this great city draw their permits, indirectly, from these six or seven men. The bosses here know these half dozen men and they do their bidding without interviews or instructions—a good boss always knows what to do without waiting for instructions.

This is a long letter. It is intended to encourage you by showing you what a job you have on hand; but the job is not too big for the man of courage and ability. Stick to it and make the rascals tremble. Publicity is the thing. Print every week next winter a list of the lobyists and their employers, their methods. I had a small pass at arms with certain corrupt influences when I lived in Hanover. I only got a peep at the real powers in Virginia; the leeches which prey upon the vitals of the Old Dominion. Yours truly,

Wm. E. Dodd.

Richmond, Va., October 17, 1909.

Editor The Idea:

Your article in your latest issue, entitled "Taft on Law Enforcement," sent a chill down my spinal column.

I have never seen a sweeter or more consonant warble in the cucoo press. The "Supreme," *The News Leader* or even that "labor fakir" sheet, *The Evening Journal,* could not chant a more harmonious strain. It is well for you that the public are damphools, otherwise they would not handle your issue with tongs.

The "Rooseveltian policies" be damned. The fruits of his administration show that his real policies were to make fireworks to amuse the Reubens whilst the trusts robbed them. Do you know of any trusts he "busted?" Are the trusts not now more firmly entrenched than when the mighty "trust buster" took up his stuffed club.

Yes, Taft will carry out the "Rooseveltian policies," all right, and I suppose the Reubens, with open mouths, will swallow his putrid effusions, but I am sincerely sorry to see you quote him. You have gained the good will and confidence of your readers and they will naturally look upon Taft with favor because you quote him approvingly. Taft is doing, upon a colossal scale, just what our local prostitutes are doing upon a small scale. And yet I do not believe we have a local politician low and vile enough to meet and shake the paw of the bloody despot, Diaz. Earth holds no more hideous monster than Diaz, and the man who will go and felicitate with him in the interest of a money-mad oligarchy, is himself a dirty and dangerous being.

If you are the real "sport" you claim to be you will educate your readers to the enormity of Bill Taft's act and when he comes to Richmond reeking in the slime of the monster, Diaz, let him meet a frost. B. M. Dutton.

The above letter is so characteristic that we have deemed it worthy of publication.

We admire a man who has something to say and says it forcefully, even if he does give us down-the-country.

The writer, Mr. Dutton, is a rather radical Socialist who can see no good in any Republican.

The editor is democratic enough to accept much of the Socialistic doctrine, but he thinks that Roosevelt was about as good a Democrat as the country has ever had. We are not quoting Mr. Taft approvingly, for we do not approve him. We quote him to show that even Taft believes in law enforcement.

A SERMONETTE ON FIGHTING EVIL

THE IDEA is not published to *please* you or anybody else. It is published to make you mad, if necessary, at least mad enough to clean up the rottenness in your city and State.

THE IDEA is sometimes criticised for going after the rascals so harshly, for making people mad, for stirring up a rumpus.

Our answer to such critics is that the greatest man that ever lived used this method and THE IDEA will not attempt to improve on the method of the Master from Nazareth, who said He came to set man "at variance" with his neighbor, and just so long as there is sin or wrong-doing there will be need for people who stand for right to be "at variance" with those who stand for evil, and all readers of THE IDEA know that the strife that THE IDEA arouses is the kind that will make for better things.

Let "the sword" and "fire" come if they are used against evil.

"I am come to send fire in the earth, and what will I if it be already kindled."

See next week's IDEA for the Bryan papers land boom scheme—Manchester Annexation.

THE IDEA has recently made a "scoop" of some very important facts which will make certain city officials be ashamed to walk Broad street in the daytime. Look out for it.

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"THE IDEA" WILL GIVE PRIZES TO

Newsboys who get the greatest number of weekly subscribers and other prizes to those who sell the most copies.

The Contest will begin with the 1st of November and boys desiring to compete should begin today to work for their weekly subscriptions.

Boys should leave their names at the time of getting their papers so that we may keep an accurate record of their sales.

Some time ago THE IDEA gave away a Watch and nine other valuable prizes, and the winning boys did good work. One boy selling 112 copies of THE IDEA of one issue. There is good money in it for the boys besides the prizes.

ADVERTISING

Is to-day the mightiest factor in the business world. It is an evolution of modern industrial competition. It is a business-builder, with a potency that goes beyond human desire. It is something more than a "drummer" knocking at the door of the consumer—— something more than mere salesmanship on paper. It is a positive, creative force in business. It builds factories, skyscrapers and railroads. It makes two blades of grass grow in the business world where only one grew before. It multiplies human wants and intensifies human desires. It furnishes excuse for timorous and hesitating ones for possessing the things which under former conditions they could easily get along without. ¶ The human mind is so constructed that it is appreciably affected by repetition—and, after all, advertising is only repetition.

—*Truman A. DeWeese.*

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THE IDEA

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Vol. III Nov. 13, 1909 No. 24

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THE IDEA

A Sign of the Times

VOL. III NOVEMBER 13, 1909 No. 24

5 CENTS A COPY $2.00 A YEAR

Published Weekly on Saturday by ADON A. YODER,
904 Capitol Street, Richmond, Va.

Entered as second class mail matter July 10, 1909 at the Post Office at Richmond, Va.

FRANK CUNNINGHAM

Second Offense

Law Provides Harsh Penalty. Penitentiary Offense.

The Board of Aldermen met last Tuesday night and after hearing the report of the Finance Committee and the report of Special Accountant Crenshaw on the conduct of Collector Cunningham's office, administered a sound rebuke to the Finance Committee by appointing a committee of five to make further investigations and report.

This finance committee should have made a thorough investigation in the first place instead of rendering such a brief and mild whitewashing report that even members of the council were deceived into thinking that no wrong had been done, although the law considers the offense so grave that it provides a penitentiary term of from one to five years for each offense.

It is universally recognized that it was the duty of the mayor to act, if he has any duty other than that of a figurehead.

The law provides in the first place that the mayor should "immediately remove from office" the collector, but the mayor refused to do his sworn duty, and thus threw the responsibility of investigating the office, which the Constitution of the State makes one of the mayor's first and most important duties, on the common council.

Members of the lower branch state that if they had known the facts which were before the finance committee they would not have voted to simply receive and file the report.

After they had so voted, THE IDEA gave them the truth, which the other papers had suppressed until after THE IDEA came from the printers and not until then did the people know that there was criminal wrongdoing in the collector's office.

The laws says in the City Charter, section 49: "The collector shall make report in writing, under oath to the auditor, weekly, or oftener if required, the amount of all moneys collected by him." and section 4 of chapter 10 of the code, in reference to oaths to the auditor, says, "and the person so sworn shall, if he swear falsely, be guilty of willful and corrupt perjury, and shall be subject to *punishment by imprisonment in the penitentiary* for not less than one nor more than five years.

Now the question at issue is not whether the actual checks or an equivalent amount in cash was held by Collector Cunningham. Of course he could not use the checks and no one charges that the misappropriation was of them.

He did deposit them, which shows he did not misplace them as it was at first reported. He did not, however, turn over the $2,000 to the city treasurer, and he swore to the auditor weekly until June 15th, and then daily until July 1st and then weekly until September 28th "the amount of *all moneys* collected by him."

The law says he was "guilty of willful and corrupt perjury" at least thirty-two times, for any one of which the penalty is "not less than one nor more than five years," and yet the papers all tried to hush it up and the mayor stated that there was no "wrong doing."

The Times-Dispatch of last Sunday attempts to shield the

real offense by making a big news item out of nothing in charging that a question of veracity exists between Cunningham and Crenshaw.

Although Cunningham's statement is worded to conceal the truth and defend his acts still in justice to him it should be made clear that he has never denied that the actual checks were sent to the bank at the time although his friends have for him made that denial and claimed that the checks were pigeonholed in his office and overlooked. The collector states that the *cash equivalent* was held in his office for the five or six months until he had time to discover whose it was.

The law is not concerned as to where the cash was for these long months. The law says if he don't turn it into the treasury and report to the auditor its collection he is guilty of perjury, and shall be imprisoned in the penitentiary for it.

The Journal of the 6th, in trying to defend the collector by suggesting a severe reprimand only, on the grounds of mitigating circumstances, says, "This belief, it might be added, is based upon the presumption that this transaction constitutes an isolated offense."

The Idea shows below that this is not an isolated offense, and in the rush of other matters has discovered one case where he was guilty of at least one similar offense and report has it that this office has been the object of special solicitude and careful whitewashing for many years past, and though we hesitate to make this statement, the facts justify it, that if the collector is guilty of perjury no one knows how much money collected has never yet found its proper place in the city treasury.

There is no use for the collector to try to hush the matter up by stating that he did not "misappropriate the money to his own use" when he certainly did not put it to the city's use and he admits that it was in his own posession and not either sent to the treasurer or even reported to the auditor that it had ever been collected.

The mayor should not becloud the issue by stating that "If there was any interest paid by the bank on the $2,000 during the period it was illegally in the collector's hands I shall certainly see that it is paid over to the city treasury." Now it

matters not whether any interest was paid on the amount or not. The fact remains that the city did not get the interest nor the use of the money for that time and the interest is due the citizens and even if the collector actually did not know to whose license account to credit it, he should have put it in the bank at interest, and such a procedure would at least help to show that there was no *intentional* wrong doing.

MISAPPROPRIATION IN 1903—WHITEWASHED BY FINANCE COMMITTEE.

In the fall of 1903 the city accountant reported that the books of the collector were grossly wrong but that they would be adjusted according to the promise of the collector by the end of the fiscal year. Then was the time to investigate, but what do we find the finance committee doing? Whitewashing, as usual. They made no recommendation and the council filed the report. At the end of the fiscal year, however, the accountant again made his report and found that Collector Cunningham had not only not reported the collection of licenses due in April until the end of the year, but had actually failed to report $670.00 to the aduitor until February of the next year.

That ought to wake up the people to realize how a merchant don't have to pay his fine while a poor citizen has to go to jail for 30 days or more if he don't pay his fine.

Instead of reporting four licenses in September which were paid in April, as he did this year, he reported licenses as collected "In every month in that year from April to December and in January, 1904, and four items amounting to $670.00 were reported to the auditor in February, 1904, and became part of the receipts of the fiscal year 1904-1905"—Special accountant's report from the minutes of the council for April, 1904.

The accountant evidently thought this a grave offense at the time for he cited the law applicable to the case and yet what did the council do? The council read the report and ordered it sent back to the finance committee for investigation

One month later, in May, 1904, the finance committee returned the report *with no recommendation* to the council. Their report reads: "The committee herewith returns report of city

accountant Carlton McCarthy." and then Mr. Ellett, who, though a member of this finance committee, has this year done all he could to keep this matter quiet, moved that the report be received and filed and his motion was adopted, and thus the investigation at that time was killed.

This is just what was planned for this year, but the people had seen a great light and councilmen were awake and so when this report had been received and filed by the council THE IDEA turned on the light and the aldermen thought it best to have an investigation, but they did not send it back to the finance committee to investigate, oh, no, they know too well how to whitewash and cover up and although Mr. Whittet objected on the ground that it was a reflection on that committee to send it to a special committee, Mr. Hobson stated "It is evident that there is some one that has sufficient influence with the finance committee to keep it from doing what is right" and the aldermen voted to send it to a special committee.

It is time the citizens were organized into a law-enforcement committee to see that the laws are properly enforced so that it may not be possible for a finance committee to hold secret meetings and keep the people ignorant of their own affairs.

The only two committees that ever hold secret meetings are the two which should by all means be the most public, because they directly are of most interest to the public. The one is the Finance Committee and the other is the Police Commission.

It is not only a temptation to crookedness to have things kept secret but it is an admission of wrong doing when these committees refuse to open their doors to the public. "Men love darkness rather than light because their deeds are evil."

No man ever served his country without being villified, for all who make a profit out of injustie will be your enemies.—*Altgeld.*

TO DIE.

"When I die, let it be in Liberty's battle with my face to the foe."—Gov. Altgeld in his last speech just before he fell mortally stricken.

CORRUPT PROCEDURE

Crime Protected by Politicians and Officers of the Law

Last week THE IDEA commented on the fact that the two women who were fined after being found guilty in the police court were not treated alike. The evidence on which the warrants were issued was the same and the women both ran what is commonly termed houses of assignation, yet the two warrants for the arrest of the women were differently worded.

The warrant for Sophie Malloy, whose place at 2224 East Main Street Justice John called the worst in the city, (and Justice John knows pretty well where about all these places are and the details concerning their management) reads as follows: "Did unlawfully keep and maintain a certain disorderly and ill governed house," etc.

That sounds like a very mild charge to be brought against "the worst place in the city of Richmond."

Now look at the warrant against Maggie Lee. That reads: "Did unlawfully keep and maintain a house of ill fame resorted to for the purpose of prostitution or lewdness."

Now what has the citizen to learn from these facts? The lesson is this, that Sophie Malloy had "protection" and Maggie Lee did not have the same protection.

Lawyers and business men whose businesses give them any knowledge of these houses in the city know that for years Sophie Malloy has openly ran this house of ill fame and that it is protected by certain crooked politicians and police commissioners who patronize it. These men used their influence to have the charge against the Malloy woman so mild that she would not be jailed on it. As a result Maggie Lee was sentenced to jail for thirty days and fined $100, while Sophie Malloy, friend of the politicians, was fined only $100. Sophie does not mind paying the $100 for she has wealthy political

friends and her business is very profitable. From the illegal sale of drinks she gets a handsome profit for her house is patronized on Sunday and at night when the bars are closed and for the risk she takes she demands good money, a dollar a round, for say three bottles of beer.

Justice John warned Sophie, *Miss* Sophie, as the innocent daily papers call her, that this house must be broken and Gilbert Pollock solemnly promised that it would be broken up.

Yet there is no danger of this place being broken up. It has been operating since the trial and report has it that Sophie says that there is no danger of an attempt to break her up for the gang would not dare to, she might "peach" on them. The trouble is that the interests of certain powers that be and the interests of this woman are so wrapped up together that they can not afford to permit the police to break her up. She would not even have been fined this little fine of $100 on sworn testimony given against her in another trial if the authorities had not feared THE IDEA.

She was glad enough to plead guilty to the minor charge for she knew it might go hard with her to have any evidence given against her.

Protected crime in Richmond pays big dividends not only to the direct criminals but to those high up that protect them.

JUSTICE JOHN

Personally and Officially

In giving his decision in the Malloy woman case for selling liquor without a license Justice John said: "What I think personally and what I think officially are two different things," and then he proceeded to acquit the woman on the charge.

It is time the justice realized that the purpose of the law is to punish for a crime that is known to exist, even though the commonwealth's attorney refused to take advantage of the

evidence in the case and make a strong speech for punishment. Everyone who heard the evidence knew that the woman was guilty and simply because she stated that she sent out and bought the drinks, although one of the witnesses stated that the first drinks served were not sent out for, the judge let her off on that slim excuse. Even if she had sent out that did not alter the case. She sold drinks without a license. She ran a house of ill fame in which it was possible at any time to buy drinks and yet the judge let her off simply because she had a pull.

A Prominent Citizen on The Idea's Letter to the Mayor

October 30, 1909.

Mr. A. A. Yorder.

My Dear Sir:—I have just read with interest the copy of your letter to Mayor Richardson. If this thing should come to a "show down" remember I am ready to say under oath (1) That these bawdy houses do exist; (2) that they sell intoxicants illegally; (3) that they sell intoxicants on Sunday. You need not use my name publicly on above points but if your evidence is demanded I am at your service.

Your experience at the State Fair exactly accords with mine the year before and you didn't say a word too much. "Fight the good fight" and may God bless you in it.

THE JOURNAL ON ALDERMANIC CROOKEDNESS.

The Journal of a recent date had a long editorial on councilmanic crookedness in Newport News and even published the letter of E. C. Cox, briber of that city.

The Idea enquires why the *Journal* goes over to Newport News and publishes about such outside crookedness when there is rank malfeasance in its own city offices which it dares not expose.

To be famous is to be slandered by people who do not know you.—*Elbert Hubbard.*

THE STATE FAIR

October 21, 1909.

Mr. Adon A. Yoder,
Richmond, Va.

Dear Sir:—Enclosed please find check for $..... to be used in sending your paper for one year to persons in Richmond, or to be used in assisting in paying your lawyers fees in the Leaman suit, as you may select.

I wish I could assist in a more substantial manner. I am glad to note your position on the immoralities at our recent State Fair and for one I have made up my mind that my family will never attend another unless the utmost assurances are given that everything of the kind you mention will be eliminated. It is astonishing to the writer that such things should have been permitted by Henry Fairfax. I am in hopes there is some excuse for him, but I do not see how there can be any.

The unimportant and nominal position of honorary vice-president for this county was given the writer and in that capacity I gave material assistance in getting attendance from this section, but hereafter I will have nothing to do with it, under such conditions as prevailed this time, as described by you.

There are enough Christian people in this State and North Carolina, where the patronage is drawn from outside of Richmond, to prevent such things, if they will take a firm stand, and stay at home if immoral shows are to be permitted and gambling on horse races and games of chance are permitted.

As a citizen of the State and a taxpayer in Richmond, I feel like I want to congratulate you on your good work, and the courage you show in showing up the corruption of that city's government. There are men there to-day who would gladly see you assassinated.

May you live a long time, and continue the good work in which you are so much needed.

Has the finance committee any right to keep the people's affairs from the people as they have been doing?

Has the finance committee any right to hold secret meetings?

CITY ACCOUNTANT'S REPORT

SHOWS ROTTEN POLICE COURT PRACTICE

Fines Not Collected. "Make no Effort to Collect Fine."

The city accountant's report shows not only misappropriations and false returns, but censures the collector for lack of promptness. The report says:

"Had the notices been sent more promptly better results would have been shown" referring to the delay of the collector in sending notices of taxes due. In his report the accountant shows a rotten state of affairs in the police court. He states:

"The delinquent licenses were reported to the Police Justice about August 1, and came to trial for the first time on August 11. The cases have been distributed and continued from time to time some eight times, until there remain about 120 cases set for trial October 21.

"I am informed by the city attorney that he insisted upon having these cases acted upon more promptly by the police court, and hopes to report more prompt action in the future. Of the cases before the court many will be dismissed, but others are individuals, etc., who habitually allow the license tax to go delinquent. I am of the opinion that it is useless to fine any party or firm that is delinquent and to make no effort to collect the fine or see that the license tax is paid, and it appears that little effort has been made to collect any fines imposed for the non-payment of license taxes in the past.

Just this week a negro boy was sent to jail by Justice John for sixty days for stealing a little clock valued at 75 cents, and yet merchants in Richmond rob the city annually of thousands and thousands of dollars in licenses and fines and then go free.

The Editor of The Idea went to the police court to see why these fines were not collected and the clerk stated that such

fines were never paid and that they perhaps could not be made anyhow. A fine against the "Gordon Motor Car Co." was pointed out as being easily collected, to which the clerk remarked: "Well, they don't try to collect them."

This led to some other very interesting discoveries in reference to fines and bail and bonds.

A man may be fined in this court and sent to jail and then later his fine may be remitted. In this way the way is paved for all kinds of wrong doing. There is no check on the books of this court and it is impossible to tell from the docket whether a man has paid his fine or not and thus the crooked practice has grown up of ostensibly making people pay a penalty which they never suffer. As a result the poor fellow without a pull pays his fine or goes to jail while the fellow with a pull goes free of either fine or jail sentence.

The City Charter gives to the police court the right to put in jail any person failing to pay a fine imposed for a city ordinance violation. The law reads:

"The offender on failing to pay the fine imposed may be imprisoned in the city jail for a term of not less than five nor more than thirty days. Whenever any fine is so imposed, but not paid, the police justice, if he shall not order the party to be imprisoned in the city jail, may, unless an appeal be taken forthwith, issue a writ of *fieri facias* for said fine, directed to the sergeant of the city. Such writ must be made returnable to the police justice within 60 days from its issuance.

The collector shall, on or before the first day of June, report to the polce justice a list of all persons liable to such taxes and in default. *Fieri facias*—levy on the goods of the person.

Fines can easily be collected and the taxes on the taxpaying citizen reduced by making these non tax-paying citizens come to tow.

REPORT ON DELINQUENT TAX COLLECTION—23,000 TAX BILLS UNPAID.

The accountant in his report on delinquent tax collection includes the following:

Personal Bills turned over for collection		$97,336.09
Total collected	$21,990.87	
(Receivers' Bond, R. & A. R. R.)		
Erroneous Assessment	36,307.76	
Returned uncollected	39,037.86	
		$97,336.09

2126 personal bills paid averaging $10 each; 23,117 bills averaging $1.20 each unpaid.

"More emphasis and greater effort should be made to collect these bills and thus reduce the number remaining unpaid. Among said bills are the names of parties who have allowed their personal tax to go unpaid for years and the amounts due will in some cases aggregate $100 or more.

Justice to all tax-payers demands that strenuous effort be made to collect delinquent taxes and I recommend that a collector be put upon the street by the collector of delinquent taxes and that a levy or suit be expressly authorized in some cases to collect the taxes due."

Just think of it. 23,117 taxes remain unpaid in Richmond this year after the delinquent tax collector has made his attempt at collection. 23,117 citizens of Richmond pay no money into the city while the rest of the people foot the big bills.

No wonder, however, that the people have such litte respect for the law and "use their own discretion" about paying their lawful taxes when the courts have no respect for the law and even the mayor, the sworn head of the government of the city, takes the absurd ground that he "should use his discretion in law enforcement."

Manchester Annexation

The Bryan Boys Land Boom

For some time past The Times-Dispatch has been doing its best to boost annexation of Manchester to Richmond, although

it would not help either Manchester or Richmond, but would only help a few commercial interests and the Bryan papers in particular.

In fact it now seems that it is simply a big land boom of the Bryan boys who own *The Times-Dispatch* and control the Woodland Heights Land Co., which desires to have Manchester annexed so as to help sell their land. Manchester has nothing to gain and all to lose. It being a smaller place is not as infested with crooked politicians who rob the citizens of their taxes.

As the citizens of Manchester point out, the attempt to adjust the tax system of that place to the Richmond plan would work untold hardships on the citizens over the river.

Annexation would mean an enormous increase in expenses for the larger city because of the demand that the Manchester portion have the same number of police that a like ward now has in the city, whereas Manchester now gets on very well with a much smaller force because of the lack of graft and connivance at crime on the part of police officials. No one would gain by annexation except a few commercial interests and *The Times-Dispatch* and the professional boodlers who would thus have a larger field of graft.

The *Manchester Bee* in opposing annexation, says:

We have the best water system of any city in the United States. In fact, our advantages are so great that they cannot be told in an article like this. We could go on and enumerate as many as twenty substantial reasons why Manchester should not desire to be annexed to Richmond.

The officers and police of the city are all first-class men; the laws are all enforced and fairly good order prevails. This cannot be said of Richmond, for every morning and afternoon you will find the papers filled with great headlines about MURDER, RAPE, THEFT and GRAFT, etc., etc., *ad libitum.*

If however, Richmond HONESTLY desires annexation with Manchester, let there be a committee of educated, first-class men; men versed in large business who can meet those anaks that Richmond has placed on her committee and then it might be that some arrangement might be made, but this is

impossible under the present offer. Our last word to our friends in Manchester as to this Richmond plan, is "Do not this foolish, unwise thing lest in coming years you be cursed alike both of God and posterity."

THE POLICE COURT AGAIN

About two weeks ago an Italian made threats against the life of a citizen of Richmond and drew a long knife with which to back up his threats. A warrant was sworn out against the offender and many witnesses, including three registered voters, appeared to verify the charges. When the case was continued from October 19th until Saturday, the 23rd, the offender did not appear and a rule was issued for him and he was re-arrested and appeared in court October 26th with G. K. Pollock as his attorney.

Before the final trial Mr. Pollock desired to *compromise* the case if the warrant would be withdrawn. This was not agreed to, but when the case was called the charge was dismissed by Justice John, and although threats to kill had been made, still the offender was dismissed without even being required to give bond to keep the peace.

Now, in this connection, note these two facts. Certain Italians of the city of Richmond are banded together in a political organization which, in the recent primary election, declared in favor of Mr. Minitree Folks for Commonwealth's Attorney.

Many of these Italians run bars in the city of Richmond and although the Italians are not so largely interested in other employment, yet they hold a very large percentage of the saloon licenses in the city of Richmond.

Although the attorney for the prosecution claimed that the case was a felony, still the Commonwealth's Attorney did not appear against the offender and Mr. Pollock, who almost invariably represents the grosser criminals in the city courts, got his man not only free from fine, but even free from giving bond, though he had threatened a man's life.

Now, THE IDEA charges that the political ring of the city is under obligations to the Italian barkeepers and criminals to such an extent that they cannot, and do not, give justice where one of them has offended against the laws of the city and State. Especially is it true that justice is very seldom meted out to those who offend if they secure the services of Mr. G. K. Pollock, prince of the enemies of justice in the city of Richmond.

Now, we desire to state that THE IDEA is not against the Italian as such, in fact, of all the European races the Italian is perhaps the most lovable and gentlemanly, and his racial characteristics make him the peer of any race.

It is likewise true that here in Richmond many most excellent citizens claim Sunny Italy as their nativity. For such we have nothing but words of friendship and good cheer.

Still we feel it a duty to condemn in the harshest terms any organization that is used to protect any criminal class or to influence legislation or officers of the executive or judicial departments in favor of a class or a particular body of people, no matter who they be, and especially if they be saloon keepers or other disreputable citizens.

RICHMOND, VA., October 25, 1909.

Mr. Adon A. Yoder, City:

DEAR SIR.—I write to ask your rate for one-half page and one-page ad for three, six and twelve months.

Your IDEA is the best thing I have seen in Richmond during a business experience of fifty-odd years. I like the ring of your mettle and am going to show my appreciation by giving you an ad. I enclose copy. I notice you offer to write them if not properly written. I will reply immediately upon receipt of information. Yours very truly,

A. H. ROBINS.

I cannot refrain from adding, "lay on McDuff," and keep on until the last grafter cries, "Hold, enough!" and quits his grafting or his job. A. H. R.

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Boys should leave their names at the time of getting their papers so that we may keep an accurate record of their sales.

Some time ago THE IDEA gave away a Watch and nine other valuable prizes, and the winning boys did good work. One boy selling 112 copies of THE IDEA of one issue. There is good money in it for the boys besides the prizes.

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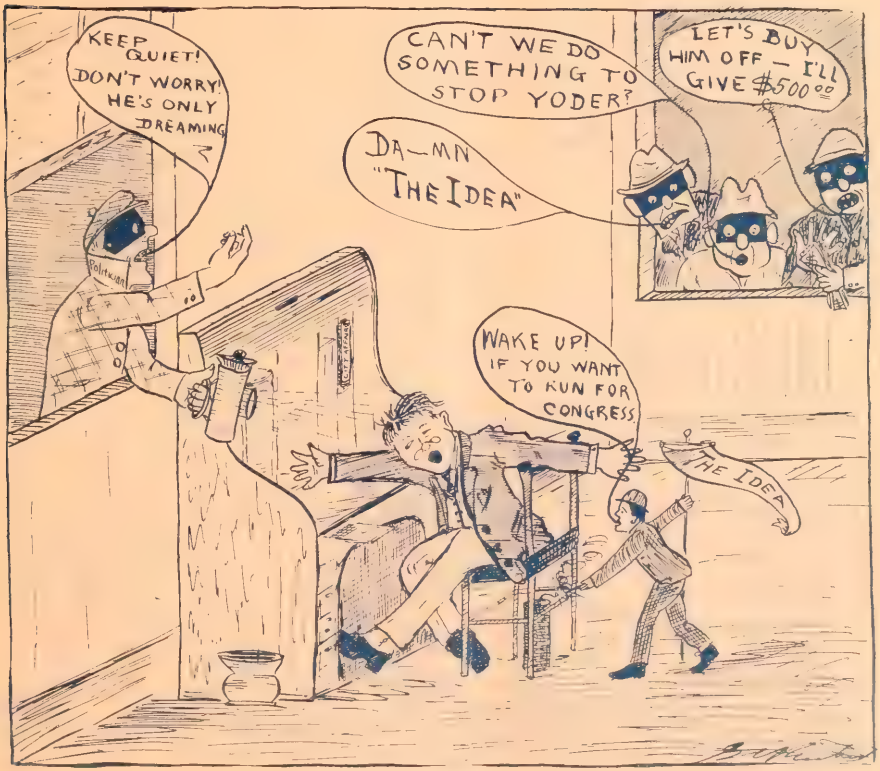
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THE IDEA

A SIGN OF THE TIMES

Vol. III Nov. 20, 1909 No. 25

$2.00 A YEAR



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THE IDEA

A Sign of the Times

VOL. III NOVEMBER 20, 1909 No. 25

5 CENTS A COPY $2.00 A YEAR

Published Weekly on Saturday by ADON A. YODER,
904 Capitol Street, Richmond, Va.

Entered as second class mail matter July 10, 1909 at the Post Office at Richmond, Va.

PERSECUTION

The Editor Arrested

Submitted to Indignities, Excessive Bail Demanded

On Monday evening last as the editor was in the City Hall to attend a meeting of the City Council he was served with a warrant about three and a half miles long, charging him with criminally libelling Douglas Gordon, Chris. Manning and Justice John Crutchfield in a publication of THE IDEA of November 6th. In the office of the Chief of Police in the same building the reading of the lengthy document was begun, but on account of the slow progress made the editor stopped the reading, accepting the service of the warrant without it; and then the officers said they would have to search the editor.

CONFIDENTIAL PAPERS AND LETTERS TAKEN

His watch, pen, pencils, coin and the like were not taken from him, but his papers, including private confidential correspondence and valuable memoranda and a check, were retained. This was objected to but in spite of the protest against the malicious and ungentlemanly and unwarranted proceedings, these private papers were read in his presence by a petty official, Mr. George Pollock, secretary to the chief, who, in spite of being calmly informed that he had no legal right to so act, continued to examine the confidential papers, and folding them together, kept them, though he gave back the check. The editor then 'phoned for several friends, most of whom happened to be out of the city. Professor Alwood, of Smithdeal Business College, however, and Dr. W. R. L. Smith came to the rescue at the second police station, where $500 bail was asked. Finally Mr. A. H. Robins was also gotten and then the bond was raised to $1.000 and the editor was released from the room where he had been very harshly ordered to be locked up by the officer in charge.

LOCKED UP

The lock-up was an exceedingly vile smelling affair with no articles of furniture, save an ancient and unsanitary closet stool with the wood seat and fixtures gone and from which came the sickening and unsanitary smells, which rendered the place dangerous for the health even of hogs, much less of men, and an iron or steel seat or bed about two feet wide. Water- and other bugs were crawling about the walls. The walls and floor had, apparently, never been washed.

In this unhealthy and sickening den the editor was kept standing for an hour while bail was being arranged and while his wife was suffering a nervous prostration from the news she had received.

EXCESSIVE BAIL

Now be it known that the old Virginia Bill of Rights, ordained by the people themselves and made a part of every Constitution the State of Virginia has ever had, guarantees to every citizen that he shall not be required to give "excessive bail," and Justice John practically admitted the bail bond of $1,000 (or even $500), as was required at the police station, was exceedingly excessive, when he reduced it the next day to $300, which was furnished very kindly by Mr. N. W. Bowe, who, though never a partisan, could not stand to see injustice done, and introduced himself and offered to stand by and see a square deal. Many other unknown friends of justice also appeared and offered to furnish bail in the sum of $10,000 if necessary. The case was postponed on Tuesday morning and set for trial on Friday, November 26th.

Now some words concerning the situation: The editor of this paper has, on four separate occasions, been hailed into court in Richmond because he dared to value his native rights and to think enough of his State and the well-being of his family and progeny to expose the political corruption and rottenness that are undermining the liberty and happiness and prosperity of the citizens for which Virginia, more than any other State, has spent its best life-blood.

When the forces of corruption in the city first found themselves being exposed by The Idea they attempted by assault and physical force to put out of business this paper, and we learn from inside authority that the plan was to have the editor lured away and assassinated. When public indignation showed itself against such brute methods the plan was changed and word went around that The Idea must be stopped at any price—by buying the editor out or by forcing him to the wall by the expense of defense in the courts, and diplomatic emissaries actually attempted negotiations for buying off the editor. Now suits and lawyers' fees for defense are accumulating against us in the vain hope that such methods will stop the work of destroying the graft income of political parasites. Threats to kill the editor have been boldly and openly made, even in open court, and have been met with no censure.

All these things have made the work of reform of political conditions expensive and dangerous and the enemies of the right have become emboldened by the fact that though the citizens are 95 per cent. on the side of the right and desire to see better conditions prevail, still they do not organize and are, therefore, powerless before a very small band of corruptionists and crooks.

The Idea does not propose to be moved either by threats or suits or assaults, but will go straight on, earnestly hoping and asking for the cordial and material backing of the good people of the city.

If it were not for suits and legal expenses this paper could easily survive without asking outside aid. It has, however, lost money, over which it has no tears to shed, and yet we believe that the citizens are enough satisfied with the good results obtained to come to the aid of the work in a substantial way.

How much is it worth to *you* to see this work continue? How much is it worth to you to know that tens of thousands of dollars of your city's taxes are being saved by The Idea's exposure and righting of extravagances and graft? How much is it worth to you to have the policy and other gambling games broken up, for the policy business has been almost ruined in Richmond by The Idea's exposure, though the plan is that a large bunch of them will renew operations this week with the knowledge of the police.

The Idea begs that the good citizens of Richmond, whose interests are at stake, will see to it that this paper has ample means of defense and protection from the attacks of the enemies of the public.

The public acts of public servants are public property. The Idea calls the attention of the people to the fact that this paper is not concerned with the private affairs of private citizens, nor the private affairs of public citizens, but only with the public acts of public citizens, and then only when those acts are such as to effect the public welfare.

CRIME PROTECTED

The enemies of this paper have grown so desperate in their attempts to destroy it that a petition has been circulated among the newsdealers of the city to get them to refuse to handle THE IDEA, because THE IDEA stands for law enforcement, and that means closing of houses of business on Sunday, and some newsdealers open on Sunday. Simultaneously with the circulation of this petition the police force is arresting for Sunday selling many places of business which have been violating the Sunday laws.

These laws should, of course, be enforced or repealed, and yet the powers governing the police are suddenly very anxious to hurt THE IDEA by pretending to enforce the law against a part of these offenders, while the bigger law-breakers go on unmolested and protected.

Not only are those houses of ill fame which THE IDEA has exposed been protected, but others in the West End are protected as well.

There are public houses of ill fame within three blocks of the second police station on West Marshall street that have been reported to the police by men of large means and standing in the community and they were confidentially informed that they could do nothing because of certain police commissioners whose influence could remove the policeman from office.

Such information has come to us from many sections of the city that police gave as their reason for not enforcing the law that police commissioners stood in the way, and it is also a matter of common report that Mayor McCarthy, and perhaps Mayor Richardson, have been frustrated in their attempts to enforce the laws of the city by the Board of Police Commissioners, who have used their power of appointment and removal of policemen to protect vice and crime and to usurp the powers of the Mayor, contrary to the intent of the charter.

BAIL BOND

On July 23, 1908, A. J. Duke was arrested on warrant for stealing about $90 worth of cigarettes from the Southern Railway depot. Gilbert Pollock was his counsel and bail was fixed at $500, with a Mr. Meredith, a saloonkeeper of Jackson Ward, as bondsman.

Nearly a year and a half has elapsed and yet this $500 bond has not been paid, nor has Mr. A. J. Duke shown up, for he skipped the town, though his bail was as surety that he would appear on the next day in the police court. On inquiry we learn from an official of the court that these bonds are rarely, if ever, collected in full, and seldom collected even in part.

It can thus be understood why protected houses of ill fame can give bond to keep the peace and then continue their illegal business.

This bonding business in Richmond seems to be merely a matter of bluff, or a means for certain hangers-on of the court, called straw-bailers, to make a living by going bail for a certain percentage. It's a profitable business for all parties concerned. Ten per cent. for going bail makes a profitable return when business is brisk.

Now, though this is a very profitable matter of form with professional bailers, still it is a very serious consideration for those who do not get the favored straw-bailer or some friends of the gang to go the bail.

Of course, if the editor of THE IDEA, whose bail was put at the excessive sum of $1,000, should be fool enough to skip you can be sure that some one would have to loose $1,000, while a thief can go free and his bondsmen pay nothing.

If the bonds and fines assessed in the police court were collected the city would be the gainer by more than $100,000 each year and the tax rate of all the citizens could be reduced.

Will the Police Board kindly tell us why a certain police officer who was about to be retired on account of his disabilities was at the last moment retained, as it is rumored on the streets?

Was it because the officer had a suit against the Traction Company and it might hurt the Traction Company's chances if he were retired?

JOHN M. KING'S COAL GOOD ENOUGH FOR HIS OLD ASSOCIATES

Although Inspector Beck has repeatedly reported to the Council that coal furnished by ex-Councilman King, who served a jail term for doing the city in 1903, was not up to contract and was not fit to burn in the city's heating plants, not having sufficient steam producing qualities, still the former councilman's friends in the Council have told Mr. Beck, by their official action in refusing to nullify King's contract, that Mr. King's coal was good enough for them, however unfit it might be for the city. Mr. Beck had shown the committee that the city could save much money by paying more, if necessary, for good coal from other parties, but the committee seemed to think that it was more important that they help Mr. King make a litttle money for himself than that they save it for the city, for the city is well able to stand the loss. What does the tax-payer, who is the city, think of this action, and how long will he permit it?

Manchester Annexation

The Bryan papers argue that annexation of Manchester would increase the population of Richmond some 12,000.

In the first place this is false on its face, and even if the census could show a gain it would not be an actual gain, for these people are already there and a gain in figures is not a gain in population and manufacturing interests coming here

are not moved by mere figures without considering how they are obtained.

Besides this, it is now found that even if Manchester is annexed, the population will not show in the census until 1920, because the 1910 census will be taken before the annexation can be completed.

Would it not be a farce to have a big ward—as the Manchester end of Richmond would be—with a separate set of courts and management. What would you think of Clay Ward with a court-house and other institutions of its own, but so connected politically as to allow the city machine politician to get in his crooked work there also.

The political crook would be helped; the Bryan papers would be helped; the grafter would be helped, but neither the people of Richmond nor Manchester would gain.

Will the citizens of Richmond stand for annexation merely for the private gain of a land boom company, in which the Bryan papers are largely interested?

Don't be fooled by hot-air talk of Greater Richmond. This community will be no greater by such a change, except in opportunity for political corruption. When Richmond people take enough interest in their government to adopt a business-like management that will fit the conditions of a city of its present size then will be time enough to try to run a larger project.

Newsboys Attention

Watch and Other Prizes

Subscribe to The Idea now, as you may be sorry by not being abe to get a copy when you want one most.

Last Saturday The Idea office had sold out at 11 o'clock.

We don't print any to hold over. Of the 7,000 copies printed we expect to sell all out early this week. Subscribe

and be sure to get all copies—$2 a year, $1 for six months. Address The Idea, 904 Capitol street, Richmond, Va.

The Idea will give a handsome watch and nine other prizes to the successful boys in the November prize contest. Boys desiring to compete for the prizes to be given away for the month of November must comply with the following rules. Two sets of prizes will be given—one set for obtaining regular customers; another for selling the largest numbers of copies during the month. In the first contest, the one for regular weekly customers, boys will be given blanks to have filled out ordering The Idea to be brought regularly. Each one properly filled out by subscribers will entitle the carrier to ten points in the contest. The ten boys getting the greatest number of weekly subscribers will be declared the winners, and handsome presents will be awarded for the work.

Any boy may also compete in this contest by getting paid in advance yearly subscribers. Each yearly subscriber with $2 in cash in advance will count 100 points. Each six months subscriber with $1 in cash will count 50 points, and each three months subscriber with 50 cents in cash will count 25 points. Thus, if a boy gets five paid in advance yearly subscribers he will get 500 points; one six months subscription, 50 points; one three months subscription, 25 points; thirty weekly subscriptions, 300 points.

IMPORTANT.

Every boy who gets Ideas must enter his name and address or else he cannot return his unsold Ideas.

Each boy entering the contest for the greatest number of copies sold must certify that he himself sold the number credited to him at 5 cents a copy to bona fide buyers and not to other newsboys.

When boys buy from each other they cannot have returned copies unsold.

Each boy from now on must enter his name in order to have the privilege of returning unsold copies of The Idea.

Copies may be returned as late as Monday night.

THE TIMES DISPATCH

News Gatherers

Many readers of The Idea Saturday before last remarked on the similarity between the articles on Frank Cunningham in The Idea and in *The Times-Dispatch*. The Idea article was written early in the week and contained news which *The Times-Dispatch* had not gotten. It was printed on Thursday and bound on Friday. Saturday *The Times-Dispatch* printed almost the same article, quoting the same laws which The Idea had unearthed, and offering the same line of argument and news.

Now, the question is: Does *The Times-Dispatch* have to rely on The Idea to get at the bottom of such matters, or is it possible that the same article just occured to them on Friday night, four days after their attempt to cover up the whole matter, or did they actually know all those details early in the week and then publish them on Saturday after they found that The Idea was in possession of the facts? Readers may draw their own conclusions, which will not vary much if the remarkable similarity between the two articles is noticed.

As The Idea stated some time ago, the Richmond daily papers will help along in the good work of purifying the political and moral and official atmosphere of Richmond when they see they have to.

They'll come, when they have to.

THAT ELECTRIC LIGHT PLANT

Whenever *The News Leader* gets up an exceptionally good editorial they give it an obscure position for fear that some one will suspect them of being inclined to kick against the men who run Richmond.

On November 10th that paper published the editorial below with no heading to it, and so very few people saw it. It is so exceptionally worth while that we feel it deserves a wider reading, hence our clipping:

Will somebody be kind enough to take the records and a pencil and a sheet of paper and figure out how far the cost of the proposed municipal electric lighting plant already has exceeded the estimates, predictions and calculations of Engineer Trafford and the other friends of that enterprise? If this is done, we would like Engineer Trafford, or somebobdy else, to tell us how much more the plant is to cost than we were told it would cost. This information would be useful and instructive just now to the people of Richmond. We have spent some money and bound ourselves to some contracts, but it is not too late to halt if we should find halting to be necessary. We had better pay some forfeits and damages than to involve ourselves in indefinite and unlimited expense.

Yesterday it was announced that $3,100 additional is wanted for an additional tail race and wheel chamber and that if the excavations for these are not made immediately the cost will be $9,000, while the wheels and generators to be installed later, to add 600 horse power, will cost $12,000. Was anything said of this in the original estimate when the council was asked to provide for the plant?

We do not object especially to the experiment of a municipal electric lighting plant. If it fails to be profitable there is an even chance that the city may get back most of its money from some private corporation. We do think, however, that it is time to do some figuring and to gather for the tax-payers a clear idea of what the cost really is to be.

If you want to read a man's private correspondence have him arrested on some trumped up criminal charge and get the Richmond police department to read his private correspondence and tell you what they learned.

It is more dangerous to expose crime than it is to commit crime, in Richmond.

Is the vaunted freedom of the press to discuss public acts and affairs only a name after all.

If The Idea tells the truth it's libellous, is it? If a public official perjures himself he is guilty of "no intentional wrong-doing."

CHRIS. MANNING'S FAVORITE

Councilmen can not do work for the city and yet police commissioners, though public officials, can take contracts for city work, even when it is in their own department. Mr. Chris Manning, plumber and commissioner, put the plumbing in the First Police Station and if one will go by there and look on he will find on the fixtures "C. Manning's Favorite." It seems to be a kind of recognized right that city officials may be interested financially in city contract work.

MIDNIGHT METHODS

Though The Idea office is within a block of the city hall, still the police bearing the warrant for the arrest of the Editor waited until night when the Editor was on his way to report a meeting of the city council, the correct report of whose proceedings the people look to The Idea to furnish, especially in a case where an investigation is to be ordered, for the other papers help in any whitewashing that is to be done.

Rumor has it that the time was fixed at night so that the editor would be kept in jail or away from friends until court time in the morning. Notice that he was taken to the Second Police Station in the West End though the First police station was much nearer.

The fact that the bond was put at $1,000 though three hundred is the amount fixed for such cases, ought to show the peo-

ple something of police methods in Richmond. When one has a just cause it is not necessary to show venom or persecution.

Midnight methods are not adopted by those who are innocent.

THE JOURNAL IN ERROR

The Journal of Tuesday Said

"In cases of criminal libel, the accused is not allowed to prove the truth of his assertions as a bar to the prosecution, but may prove it in mitigation of punishment. This proposition may be hard for the lay mind to grasp, but lawyers will quickly see it.

"To illustrate: The policy of the law is to discountenance any sort of a libellous statement, whether true or not, as it is calculated to bring about a breach of the peace and thus create disorder.

"On the other hand, where the printed statement is true, the accused is allowed to show this, and may thus modify his punishment to such an extent that the penalty may be merely nominal. Certainly no fair minded jury would be apt to bear hard on a prisoner charged with libel, who clearly proved the truth of his written statements."

These remarks are about true in reference to private individuals but the laws are entirely different as to the latitude allowed publication concerning public officials. What is libel in one case is not libel in another.

The facts about a private individual's life are not public property. The facts of a public official's life are, and even broader latitude is given the press, for in certain cases even false publications are not libellous. The Idea's statements however, are true.

If the police department will profit by the notes which they took away from the Editor there will be some big arrests soon in old Richmond. If they read the notes about a gambling

den as carefully as they did a private letter to the Editor there eyes might be opened. But they know all about it anyhow.

According to the *Journal,* if a man commits murder and a paper prints the facts then the paper is liable to damages even if it is true. Wise *Journal*—in law!

RESOLVE!

To keep my health!
To do my work!
To live!
To see to it that I grow and gain and give!
Never to look behind me for an hour!
To wait in weakness, and to walk in power;
But always fronting onward to the light.
Always and always facing toward the right.
Robbed, starved, defeated, fallen, wide astray—
On, with what strength I have.
Back to the way!

Charlotte Perkins Stetson.

GORDON WAS PRESENT

The Journal Further States

"It is not known what course counsel for Mr. Yoder will follow, though it would appear that if the defendant seeks to establish the truth of his allegations, the burden of proof will be on him. And even then, as has been said, he cannot completely exculpate himself.

"Police Commissioner Gordon feels confident that the guilt of the editor will be established. It is said on good authority that Mr. Gordon was not even in the court room on the day the two disreputable women had a hearing."

The Idea never charged that Gordon was present when "the two disreputable women had a hearing."

In the preliminary hearing the trials of the two women were postponed to separate days, one was in one week; the other

in the next. The Idea said that Gordon and Manning were behind Justice John in the trial of the Malloy woman which is true, and Mr. Gordon does not deny it, though the *Journal* article evidently was intended to prejudice the mind of the people against the Editor.

The trouble with the daily papers is that public opinion is often molded by the false or twisted statements of irresponsible reporters. A half truth is often worse than a lie.

CHESTNUTS

A merchant reports to The Idea that he learns from the City Hall that the chestnut venders on Broad and Main streets, about twenty in all, are paying no license for their privilege of selling chestnuts on the sidewalk. This, he argues, is not just, as he has to pay a high license and other dealers should be required to do likewise.

The question is, who protects these fellows from the police that this clear violation of the law is not stopped?

'NEATH THE WILLOW.

I sit 'neath a weeping willow tree:
And as I sit I dream of thee
And think that wert thou gone from me
My life would droop and bended be
As droops the weeping willow tree.

Three years have flown; full many a day
Has wrought its change, and gone for aye;
And O, fair one of my life's bright May!
Thy voice is hushed—sweet roundelay,
Thy young life flitted far away.

Again I sit 'neath the willow tree;
And as I sit I dream of thee,
And know, since now thou'rt gone from me,
My life shall never ceasing be
An ever weeping willow tree.

Nym O'Dare.

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"THE IDEA" WILL GIVE PRIZES TO

Newsboys who get the greatest number of weekly subscribers and other prizes to those who sell the most copies.

The Contest will begin with the 1st of November and boys desiring to compete should begin today to work for their weekly subscriptions.

Boys should leave their names at the time of getting their papers so that we may keep an accurate record of their sales.

Some time ago THE IDEA gave away a Watch and nine other valuable prizes, and the winning boys did good work. One boy selling 112 copies of THE IDEA of one issue. There is good money in it for the boys besides the prizes.

ADVERTISING

Is to-day the mightiest factor in the business world. It is an evolution of modern industrial competition. It is a business-builder, with a potency that goes beyond human desire. It is something more than a "drummer" knocking at the door of the consumer—— something more than mere salesmanship on paper. It is a positive, creative force in business. It builds factories, skyscrapers and railroads. It makes two blades of grass grow in the business world where only one grew before. It multiplies human wants and intensifies human desires. It furnishes excuse for timorous and hesitating ones for possessing the things which under former conditions they could easily get along without. ¶ The human mind is so constructed that it is appreciably affected by repetition—and, after all, advertising is only repetition.

Truman A. DeWeese.

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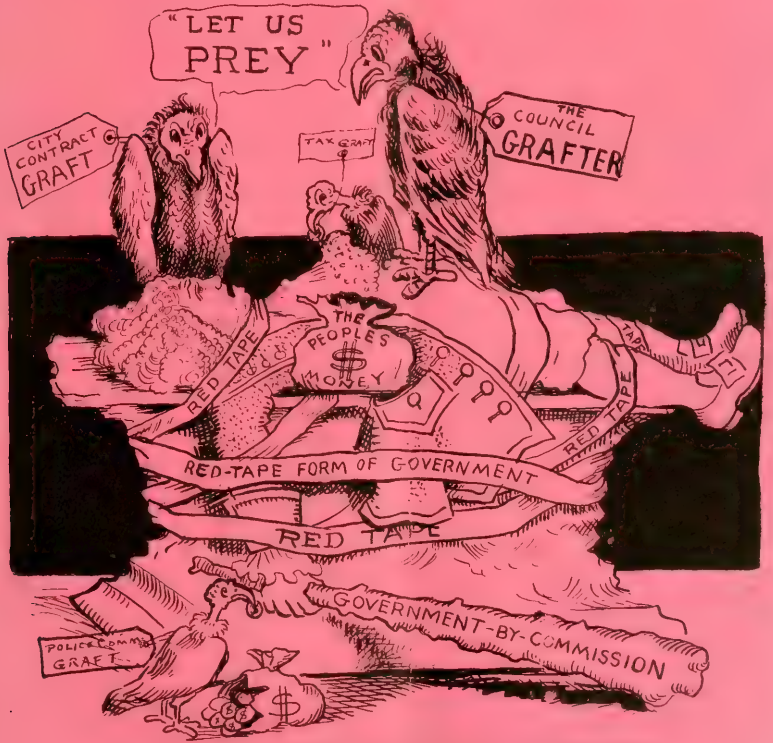
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THE IDEA

A SIGN OF THE TIMES

Vol. III | Nov. 27, 1909 | No. 26

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THE IDEA

A Sign of the Times

VOL. III NOVEMBER 27, 1909 No. 26

5 CENTS A COPY $2.00 A YEAR

Published Weekly on Saturday by ADON A. YODER,
904 Capitol Street, Richmond, Va.

Entered as second class mail matter July 10, 1909 at the Post Office at Richmond, Va.

MUST THE IDEA GO?

Is the Freedom of the Press Only a Name in Virginia?

Some Very Pertinent Remarks About the Methods now Being Used to Destroy This Paper

The Editor of this paper has every reason to believe that the various assaults and warrants and suits now and in the past made against the publisher and even the printer of THE IDEA are but part of a deliberate and carefully made plan to destroy this paper and thus put an end to the exposal of official wrong-doing in Richmond. While the National Constitution and the Virginia Constitution guarantee to all the freedom, both of press and speech, still no statute law exists prohibiting evil-minded persons from destroying not only the liberty of the press but the very press itself by suits and criminal charges.

In England no man may simply by a warrant force a publisher into court and make him pay for defence regardless of his offence. There no one save the Attorney General himself can issue such a warrant and then only when he has been fully satisfied that there is just cause for it. But here in Virginia, home of the first American resistance to English misgovernment, a petty justice of the peace, whether he has seen a law book or not, may issue a warrant which compels a man to spend hundreds of dollars in defence and may immediately destroy his ability to publish, without any inquiry into the justice of the charge brought, and the only possible salvation lies in the public indignation and aid of private citizens.

PRINTERS HARASSED—MAY REFUSE TO PRINT.

Three libel suits have been entered against the printers of The Idea, to one of which the Editor is made a party, and one criminal libel warrant against the Editor alone, *all without a single denial of any of the so-called libellous articles.*

The fact seems to be that the establishment of the falsity of the charges will not be attempted, the object of the charges being to kill the publication by financial embarrassment through legal expenses and by rendering it unprofitable to printers to print it. The authorities are not so much afraid of what has been published in The Idea as of what will be published in The Idea concerning the evil doings of public officials, for they know the nature of the evidence in our possession which shows councilmen and other city officials directly interested in "protected" illegal houses whose main business is the infraction of the law. Because of these things word has gone forth that The Idea must be destroyed, and to that end the printers, who are not the publishers, and are in no way a party to the publishing of The Idea save as employees to do certain job work just as a stenographer is simply an employe—these printers are harassed with suits and forced to defend themselves and must spend forsooth many hundreds of dollars, even though they be absolutely innocent both morally and before the law. As a result no one can blame the Williams Printing Company for refusing to further print The Idea when the taking of this work subjects them, though innocent, to untold

expense and worry and the loss of valuable time in court. As the Editor is not able personally to bear this expense himself, unless he can call on those who believe in justice and fair play to come to his aid and stand back of the printers to the extent of the legal expenses then the Williams Printing Company can not continue to do this work and have so informed the management of this paper.

AN APPEAL TO THE PEOPLE

The Idea is therefore forced to call on the good people of Richmond to come to its aid. If The Idea does not appear next week it will mean that the grafters of Richmond have, at least temporarily, gained an enormous victory over publicity and the forces which stand for law enforcement and fair play. The Idea has been entirely alone in this fight against municipal corruption and mismanagement and extravagance and it is confidently predicted that should The Idea be stopped in its crusade against evil then the daily papers will drift back into complete suppression and concealment of the facts in which they were engaged before The Idea appeared, and from which they have partially aroused.

Many friends of the right have offered their aid but we feel that there are many more who would gladly give of their means to see the fight continue. The men of the Allen & Ginter branch of The American Tobacco Company have gotten together and raised twenty-one dollars and other individual contributions have been received. These have been turned over to the Rev. Tilden Shearer who has been selected by a committee of citizens to receive the necessary funds.

Many citizens have enquired as to the needs of the situation, and we believe that when the men of Richmond realize what a concerted and cowardly attempt is being made to suppress this apper, because they fear the turning on of the light, they will rally to the standard of justice and liberty and be glad to offer their financial help to see that this cause of the people is properly defended in the courts.

We therefore call on the people to send to the Rev. Tilden Shearer, Ginter Park, Richmond, Virginia, any funds for

this fight. The Idea can live without these legal expenses and will be able to pay a part of them, but can not pay much for it is entirely dependent on its circulation for its means of subsistence. Good lawyers are, of course, expensive, but it is absolutely necessary to get good ones when the opposition is composed of politicians and office-holders, parties to the machine that is responsible for all the political graft and corruption in the city.

Your well wishes and good intentions, though gratefully received and always deeply appreciated will not avail much at this time, but your financial help, however small or however large, will so effectively help as to completely overthrow the ring and compel the officers of the law both to respect and enforce the laws of the commonwealth.

THE TRIAL

The trial of the Editor on the warrant for criminal libel will come up in police court Friday of this week, too late to be reported for this issue, but the next issue will have some very pointed things to say—do not miss it, as much inside information has been received, which together with the facts of that trial will show the people how damnably corrupt the management of affairs of Richmond has gotten.

The events of the past few weeks should of themselves open the eyes of the citizens to the fact that it is possible for a member of the political crowd to use the whole force of the governmental machine to carry out his personal desires. If the trial turns out as it is planned by the gang appeal will be taken to a jury in the Hustings court.

Let the men of Richmond who feel most the extravagance and corruption of the present rotten and crooked administration,—the working men—band together, and no power on earth can stop the progress of reform. It is a well known fact that all movements for better conditions must be backed by the great body of the people, the men who toil, before any lasting good can be accomplished. You bear the burden of bad government. Will you help fight for good government?

THE DUTY OF THE PRESS

"To See That Proper Inferences Are Drawn"

Much has been said of the rights and liberties of the press. Has enough been said of its duty? The press may have a legal right to do a thing which duty forbids it to do. When it has, however, both the right and the duty to publish, then let no one oppose. THE IDEA claims not only the right to publish the truth and to "draw any reasonable inferences therefrom," but claims also that as a public newspaper, it would not have a right to exist if it did not both publish the facts and also draw any reasonable inferences therefrom and criticize just as harshly as the circumstances justify any public acts of any public officials. If the press of this city had dared to do its duty in the past there would not only be no question now raised as to the rights of this paper, but there would be absolutely no need of this paper undertaking its present dangerous and necessary work of exposing evil.

The *Philadelphia Press* of last Sunday, November 21st, gave a long account of the proceedings in the criminal libel suit of the government against the *Indianapolis News* in which the judge, in throwing the case out of court said:

"NEWSPARPER HAS A PUBLIC DUTY."

"On the other hand a newspaper has a public duty to perform. It is its business to discuss these political questions. It is not only its privilege, but it is the duty of the owners of a paper to, in the language of a former President, "print the news and tell the truth about it," and it is the duty of the owners of a paper to tell the people of the United States what the facts are as far as they can find out, and *see that proper inferences are drawn, and if the indications point to the wrongdoing of anybody, it is their duty to talk about it, speak out and talk about it.*"

The Idea claims that if it, as a public institution, did not dare to "talk about" and "criticize" and "see that proper inferences are drawn" from the public acts of the city officials it would not be any more worthy to exist than those other newspapers of this city which "encumber the ground" and "bear no fruit."

Even if The Idea had "technically passed the line" of rightful discussion the above quoted Judge Anderson claims that even then the liberty of the press can not be abridged. He said:

"It is one of the incidents of public life, one of the penalties of those who hold public positions or semi-public positions —one of those things that is incident to those situations—it is a question sometimes whether or not liberty is not more safely guarded by passing over discussions which technically pass the line."

Josiah Quincy on the Impeachment of Public Officers in January, 1768:

"Woe unto the Land when the Greatness of the Criminal shall dismay his Accusers, and his Authority shall make the righteous Man to tremble; when the enormous Power of Guilt shall exalt itself above the Judgment-Seat and bid Defiance to the Tribunal of Justice!"

GRAIN GRAFT

Notice the fact that James Robinson has been convicted and his testimony is thus destroyed for use against Alvey, the one "higher up" charged by the committee with being responsible for the whole grain graft.

Notice this too, that though the special investigating committee, after a careful hearing, decided to recommend a suit against Alvey for the recovery of damages and the council voted to uphold them, still all this was set aside by a motion

of Mr. Ellett that the report be sent back to the committee with instructions to compromise.

Thus it is that under our present councilmanic plan the city may be robbed of untold amounts and has to resort to a compromise for fear that a thief will be detected stealing from the city. What will the Commonwealth's Attorney do? It is hoped he will do his duty. What the council decides to do is none of his business.

FRANKLIN ON FREEDOM.

While free from Force the Press remains,
Virtue and Freedom cheer our plains;
This Nurse of Arts, and Freedom's Fence,
To chain, is Treason against Sense:
And Liberty, thy thousand Tongues
None silence who design no Wrongs;
For those who use the Gag's Restraint,
First Rob, before they stop Complaint.

—*Benjamin Franklin.*

BIG GAMBLER PARDONED--WHY?

Everyone recognizes the fact that running a public gambling house is one of the most heinous crimes that can be committed, because it is not only so closely connected with the houses of ill fame as it was in the case of Sam Kaufman, who has just been pardoned, but because it is the means also of undermining our banks and businesses as well.

A negro may innocently (ignorantly, therefore innocently) engage in a crap game and have to go to jail for thirty days and no one interests himself in his release if he has a family to support and has been supporting them by honest methods. But when a big criminal, like Sam Kaufman, who has been a notorious gambler for years, and has at least three times been

arrested, and at last convicted for it on the most convincing kind of evidence, is at last put in jail, the judge of that court in company with Gilbert K. Pollock, intercedes for him with the Governor and the criminal is pardoned because he has a family to support when his means of supporting that family has been the running of a notorious gambling house, and we have not yet learned of the release of the young man whom he had used as a tool and a cat's paw and who had gone on the stand and falsified for him—Kaufman.

The paper states he was pardoned on condition that he leave the State at once and remain forever away.

What right has this State to exile its gamblers to other States which have troubles of their own. Besides the question of moral right, this city whose officers by the laxity of law enforcement have made Kaufman's business profitable and who know him are better able to keep him from gambling and to protect society from his crimes than other States to which he may go as an unknown gambler.

Our country excludes criminals which other countries would dump on America and yet Governor Swanson dumps our notorious criminals on a sister State.

It is indeed remarkable that Gilbert Pollock can get Justice Crutchfield and Governor Swanson to do such an unjust thing.

DESECRATION OF THE FLAG

Richmond Ladies Protest

A delegation of the ladies of the city has called on The Idea to agitate the passage of a bill through the coming legislature making it unlawful to use the national flag for advertising purposes as is being done to-day in Richmond by the Schlitz beer people of Milwaukee.

That the stars and stripes should be defamed by being used to advertise beer is a shame on the State. The Attorney

General of Maryland has ordered all such bills posted throughout that State to be removed forthwith.

It is earnestly hoped that the next legislature will pass a similar law in Virginia.

If the government can suppress a piece of ragtime music referring too lightly to the flag, surely it is time Virginia was following her sister states in stopping the use of the flag for the advertisement of beer.

Let some legislator make himself popular with the men, as well as the ladies, by offering such a measure at the coming session and he will do the cause of purity and respect for the flag a great service as well. The following is a dispatch from Baltimore:

"FLAG, POLE AND BEER."

Baltimore, Md., October 16.—"There may be some question," said State's Attorney Owen, "as to who discovered the North Pole but there is no question about the use of the flag at the pole on a beer advertisement, and the flag will have to come down."

Mr. Owen ordered a Milwaukee brewer to take down all its advertisements throughout the State on which is used a picture of the flag in connection with the discovery of the pole. The picture shows the Arctic explorer holding a flag in one hand and pointing with the other to a case of beer. The State's Attorney had received a number of protests against the use of pictures of the flag for such a purpose.

MUST PROVE MALICE

Now one of the essential ingredients of crime is guilty intent. It occurs to me that before a man can be guilty of a crime for libel that there has to be present that guilty intent. This question as to expressed and implied malice shades into nothing when you get right down to the cases.

Anything wrong that is done by one person to another is

a tort, it is not a crime. I am at a loss to know how an act can be made a crime unless there is present that thing, *an absolutely essential thing* in all crime, *the malicious intent.* So when it comes to a question of conditional privilege and malice, the *fact that it is a public matter,* publicly discussed, of public interest will have a good deal to do with it.—From the stenographic report of the remarks of U. S. Judge Anderson of Indiana in the criminal libel case against the *Indianapolis News.* The case was dismissed.

EUREKA!

Praise at Last
The Fire Commissioners

A SUGGESTION

As the ancient Greek said when he made a long sought discovery, so says The Idea after a long search for good and clean management of affairs in Richmond—Eureka, I have found it!

If one can judge by the methods and manners of this board in open session (they have no secret meetings) they are a conscientious and fair-minded body.

It is true that The Idea believes that other departments of the city government of Richmond are well managed, but we have not yet had occasion to examine into them and so find out.

Much has been said about the Firemen's Relief Association and the attitude of the Board of Fire Commissioners in the matter. During the discussion now going on the papers have tried to make it appear that there was a big row between the men and the commissioners. There is indeed a vast difference

of opinion which it appears will right itself when all parties concerned understand each other, but it is confidently said that the firemen have nothing to fear from a close inquiry into the good to be derived from the proposed change in their insurance organization.

The Editor of THE IDEA was impressed with the fair-mindedness and freedom of the discussion last week at the city hall. Much was said which must help the firemen to settle their difficult question to the best advantage of all concerned, but THE IDEA desires to say a few words for the benefit of the present members of the Firemen's Relief Association and for all the men of the department.

The chairman of the board is insistent that the money now being donated to the firemen shall not be used to help men who have long ago left the department. It should be remembered, however, that the money given to the department when they were members was used to pay death claims and these present non-firemen have gotten nothing, though it is largely their money that makes up the $23,000 now in the Relief Association, and they have been paying money into the association, some of them for the last eighteen years. Of course these men might not have just cause to object if the Relief Association should dissolve and they be paid of the funds left amounts apportioned to the time they had severally been members.

Then too, new members have a right to object to being taxed $240.00 a year as are new policemen by the Police Benevolent Association to which each policeman *must* belong—for so says the board.

This is not only an exorbitant sum to pay for health insurance, but it is not right to compel a man to belong to an organization to which he has no desire to belong. The worst feature of the Police Benevolent Association seems to be the fact that the policemen who resign from the force can not get back a cent of these large amounts he has been compelled to pay. No wonder the Police Benevolent Association is rich, though the individuals who were compelled to make it so may be as poor as the proverbial turkey.

Let the firemen form a Benevolent Association modeled somewhat after the police organization, but *membership should*

not be compulsory and the dues should not be excessive so as to pile up unnecessary money for the benefit of borrowers to the detriment of those who foot the bill.

If firemen are killed or injured in service it is the duty of the city to render necessary aid and fellow firemen should not have to bear the burden by the payment of high rates of health insurance.

EPITAPH

(FOR THE TOMBS OF RICHMOND POLITICIANS.)

(FROM A POEM BY S. E. KISER.)

He was chosen by the people to protect their sacred rights,
But he added to their hardships and he lessened their delights;
He betrayed his trust for profits that no honest man would claim,
Prizing riches more than glory, he gained wealth but died in shame.
Here he lies and here his record has been set where all may read;
He was chosen for high honors which he sacrificed for Greed.

TAKE ME BACK

O take me back to the farm, dear,
I'm tired of the city's strife.
O give back the healing balm, dear.
Of the country's lovely life.

These houses and streets and strange faces,
Artificial and vanity seem
When I think of the love-haunted places
That sweetened my childhood's dream.

Just now o'er the noise of the street, dear,
A sound familiar came,
'Twas the clatter of Romeo's feet, dear,
Young Romy so wild and so tame.

And then 'twas the lowing of kine, dear,
As the cattle were coming home,
And Daisy, that heifer of mine, dear,
The first to the bars to roam.

And then from down by the barn, dear,
I heard my pet rooster crow,
And from over the near-by tarn, dear,
The bob white soft and low.

The guineas and turkeys I saw, dear,
In the orchard over the lane,
And the cornfield crow with his caw, dear,
Was mocking the gobbler vain.

And then while the morning was still, dear,
'Twas burst with a medley of sound
As the hill gave back to the hill, dear,
The deep-voiced bay of the hound.

And out of the woods came the pack, dear,
And louder grew the refrain,
But as they turned and went back, dear,
It died in the forest again.

And there was Fox and Belle, dear,
The shepherds of father's sheep,
And their pups at play by the well, dear,
And Prince on the porch asleep.

And father came in from the field, dear,
With Charley and Bob to the plow—
No, no, it wasn't a dream, dear;
I saw them in rev'ry just now.

So take me back to the farm, dear,
The city's no place to stay.
'Tis filled with sorrow and harm, dear,
Tho' brilliant and noisy and gay.

There's no time to live in its rush, dear,
To hear and to scent and to see.
The sky and the rose and the thrush, dear,
Are no longer for you and me.

The flowers that bloom in the dell, dear,
Are blooming to-day as of yore:
The thrush is bursting to tell, dear,
His story of love as before.

The sky and the mountain and vale, dear
Are as bright and as high and as sweet,
And will us as quickly regale, dear,
As when on the old rustic seat

You told me your love in the twilight,
And said you'd grant every prayer.
I only ask that mine eyes might
Rest on the old home there.

And that I might tread to the spring, dear,
The path that my childhood trod,
And hear the mocking bird sing, dear,
His wildly sweet praises to God.

And drink as I used to of old, dear,
From the long-handled gourd on the sill,
That water so crystal cold, dear—
I taste it in memory still.

And pluck once more the wild rose, dear,
The violet, daisy and fern,
And learn from the lily's repose, dear,
The lesson God wants me to learn.

And list to the sigh of the breeze, dear,
In its endless amorous strain
As it whispers its love to the trees, dear,
And the trees make answer again.

So speed me back to the farm, dear,
Away from the city's strife.
I long for the healing balm, dear,
Of the country's lovely life.

These houses and streets and strange faces,
Artificial and vanity seem,
When I think of the love haunted places,
That sweetened my childhood's dream.

For my home in the country I'm sighing,
To live and to lay me to rest,
For whether for living or dying,
The country—God made it—is best.

Alyn O'Dare.

EXTRAVAGANCE IN POLICE DEPARTMENT

It is noticed that the Chief of Police is driven to and from his office, not by a $20-a-month negro driver, but on the other hand a $100-or-so-a-month policeman is detailed to act as driver, and thus the city looses some $80 a month, all because we have no managing head of the police department who is directly responsible to the people.

The constitution puts the Mayor at the head of this department in a more especial sense than at the head of other departments, although he is the real responsible head of all departments, and yet it seems nobody's business to keep down expenses.

The real trouble lies in the fact that certain men have to be rewarded by the machine for certain services rendered, not to the people, but to this machine, and as a result other officials, who would like to see things righted, find that they, too, are under obligations to the machine, and so everybody keeps quiet while the tax-payer pays the bill.

It is doubtful if with the expenditure of a million dollars more the city will have a complete working settling basin.

For Reliable

FURNITURE, FLOOR COVERINGS, STOVES AND HEATERS :-: :-:

CALL ON

JONES BROS. & CO. Inc.

Cash or Credit 1418-1420 E. Main St.

PRIZES FOR BOYS

"THE IDEA" WILL GIVE PRIZES TO

Newsboys who get the greatest number of weekly subscribers and other prizes to those who sell the most copies.

The Contest will begin with the 1st of November and boys desiring to compete should begin today to work for their weekly subscriptions.

Boys should leave their names at the time of getting their papers so that we may keep an accurate record of their sales.

Some time ago THE IDEA gave away a Watch and nine other valuable prizes, and the winning boys did good work. One boy selling 112 copies of THE IDEA of one issue. There is good money in it for the boys besides the prizes.

ADVERTISING

Is to-day the mightiest factor in the business world. It is an evolution of modern industrial competition. It is a business-builder, with a potency that goes beyond human desire. It is something more than a "drummer" knocking at the door of the consumer—— something more than mere salesmanship on paper. It is a positive, creative force in business. It builds factories, skyscrapers and railroads. It makes two blades of grass grow in the business world where only one grew before. It multiplies human wants and intensifies human desires. It furnishes excuse for timorous and hesitating ones for possessing the things which under former conditions they could easily get along without. ¶ The human mind is so constructed that it is appreciably affected by repetition—and, after all, advertising is only repetition.

—Truman A. DeWeese.

ALFRED L. WALTON, Jr. *FRANK L. HUTCHESON*

Jefferson Chemical Cleaning and Dyeing Works

No Cleaner Can Clean
A Cleaner Suit Cleaner
Than A Clean Cleaner
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We Dye Seventy-One Colors

All Work Done As It Ought To Be

2225 E. Cary St. *Phone Mad. 6030*

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CEMENT PAVING CONTRACTOR

32 NORTH LOMBARDY STREET **PHONE 1821**

RICHMOND, VA.

Estimates cheerfully given on Sidewalk Paving, Halls, Vestibules, Basements, &c.

The Editor has known Mr. Ewing personally for the last twenty years, and he takes pleasure in stating that his reputation for first-class work and straight forward, satisfactory dealing is unexcelled.

WEEKLY 5c THE COPY

THE IDEA

A SIGN OF THE TIMES

Vol. III December 4, 1909. No. 27

$2.00 A YEAR



WHERE IS THE BOY THAT (DON'T) MIND THE SHEEP?
HE'S UNDER THE HAY STACK FAST ASLEEP

FOR SALE AT ALL NEWS STANDS

BEING SOME SERMONETTES PUBLISHED WEEKLY FOR THE COMMON GOOD AT RICHMOND, VIRGINIA, By ADON A. YODER, EDITOR AND PUBLISHER, 904 CAPITOL ST., RICHMOND, VA.
PRINTED AT ELSEWHERE.

JEWELER **J. S. JAMES** OPTICIAN

7th AND MAIN STS.

We have in our Fall Stock, and are showing special good values in

DIAMONDS, WATCHES, JEWELRY, SILVERWARE, CUT GLASS, Etc.

We invite your inspection

S. L. LEDMAN

A Full Line of Hunting Shoes and Boots For Your Selection.

SHOES of QUALITY

Number 726 East Main Street

RICHMOND, VA.

TO HOUSEKEEPERS....

You wish the best Flavoring Extracts, Essences and Spices for your Table.

The best Soap, Perfumery and Toilet Requisites for your family and guests.

The best Steel Enameled, Rubber and Glass Goods for your sick.

We have them as low as they can be sold, as well as Medicines of unexcelled quality, which conform strictly to the United States Pure Food and Drug Law.

You want information as to what is best to give medical students at Christmas, January 1st or at Commencement Exercises. This we can give you of the most satisfactory character.

A. H. ROBINS' PHARMACY,

200 EAST MARSHALL STREET
RICHMOND, VA.

50 YEARS EXPERIENCE. GOODS DELIVERED ANYWHERE IN THE CITY.

THE IDEA

A Sign of the Times

VOL. III NOVEMBER 27, 1909 No. 27

5 CENTS A COPY $2.00 A YEAR

Published Weekly on Saturday by ADON A. YODER,
904 Capitol Street, Richmond, Va.

Entered as second class mail matter July 10, 1909 at the Post Office at Richmond, Va.

ALFRED WILLIAMS To The Rescue

Ex-Governor Glenn, of North Carolina, in an eloquent appeal last Sunday for means with which to better conditions in the home missionary fields of the Southern Presbyterian Church told of the report made by two distinguished students of American social conditions. The one, a distniguished Frenchman, and the other a distinguished Englishman, made separate tours through our cities and made remarkably similar reports, showing the tendency toward decay of American institutions due to the corrupt alliance between political grafters and all manner of vice, "and," the Governor added, "the papers and the crooked politicians immediately said it was all a lie."

Likewise here in Richmond, as THE IDEA exposes the rottenness of political alliances with the criminal element of the city, Alfred Williams can't keep quiet, but joins with the evil politicians in firing at THE IDEA.

In Tuesday's *Evening Leader* the valiant editor, whom South Carolina imposed on Virginia, makes bold to repeat that the

editor of THE IDEA came all the way from Lynchburg, as if it were a crime for a native Virginian to publish a paper in Richmond, his own Capital City, while an exile South Carolinian had certain rights and privileges which natives did not possess.

We would remind Mr. Alfred Williams that there are lots of good people in this city who are ashamed of and disguested with the fact that his subsidized and commercialized evening sheet ever made its appearance in their midst.

No wonder Mr. Williams is mad when it is remembered that not only is his paper the recognized mouthpiece of the whiskey interests of the State, which are responsible for all the rottenness and corruption which THE IDEA is exposing, but also some time ago THE IDEA had occasion to expose a big prize contest scheme whereby a certain Broad street pool room manager who makes his living by corrupting the youth of the city, carried off a house and lot given by the same *News-Leader,* although the pool room man had no bona fide subscriptions to the paper, and the real workers who had spent so much time and labor to help out the weak little sheet had to force the matter into the courts, where perhaps some day in the far distant future they may get justice.

It is also worthy of attention to notice the *News-Leader* editorial reference to "Ten Thousand a Year," and to call to mind that that book was written as a fling at the crooked legal procedure of that day in England, and that the main characters are three lawyers, Quirk, Gamon and Snap, whom we would liken to three slick articles whose habitat is Justice John Crutchfield's court. Oily Gamon would be quickly recognized, and we would "name the culprits" but for fear of more criminal libel suits (these pesky little affairs take so much time and money).

Though we do not remember having seen the book in the last fifteen years, we are of the impression that the "Yorkshire Stingo," a minor affair in the book, was invented by the author to show up just such papers as the *News-Leader,* which boast, as the *News-Leader* did, in the very article herein referred to, of "fighting graft and political influence."

What do the people care if the *News-Leader* did fight graft as they claim "in the old days."

The biggest crook in the world can point to a time in the dim and distant past when he too was pure and clear, but THE IDEA charges that the *News-Leader's* influence *to-day* is evil, and everybody knows it.

It is barely possible, however, that Mr. Williams, the hired editor, would sometimes get on the right side of a question if his hands were not tied by those who dictate the policy of his paper.

We notice that the *News-Leader* claims that they too have had many suits against them "in the past."

Is it the fear of suits that made them so careful as not to expose graft in the present? It is significant that they are not being "sued for libel" in the present.

Suits may have quieted the *News-Leader,* but THE IDEA will continue its work in spite of suits and warrants.

Citizens Contribute

Certain citizens who believe in the Freedom of the Press have met and organized with the determination to see a fellow-citizen protected in this right and to see fair play. All who are in sympathy with this movement are called upon to contribute to a fund to cover fees of attorneys employed in Mr. Yoder's behalf. Contributions sent to the undersigned will be acknowledged at once.

TILDEN SCHERER,

Chairman, Ginter Park, Richmond, Va.

Or 'Phone Madison 2686 or Madison 965-J.

About $100 has been subscribed so far to the above fund. Do not let this opportunity go by to strike a blow at corruption before it is too late. From three to five hundred dollars may be needed if this case is carried to the Supreme Court.

South Boston, Va., Nov. 28, 1909.

Editor The Idea, Richmond, Va.:

I am sorry to see from the papers that certain parties are trying to harrass and persecute you to such an extent that your paper may be killed. I believe your paper is doing great good by opening the eyes of the people of Richmond to what is going on, and no one in public office should object to his acts being known to his constituents; they have a right to know it all, be it good or bad. I believe that your idea is "to turn on the light," let the chips fall where they may.

The press of our country wields great power, and to muzzle it would be a severe blow to our liberty and to our right to criticise acts of public servants. You may and do make mistakes, as it is human to err, and when you misrepresent any one you seem ready and willing to correct such an error; no one can do more. We need clean and pure men in public office, and men who will do their duty and not be afraid of the press or the people's criticisms. It is very evident to the public that there is a combined fight on you (only about six lawyers against you I believe); that seems quite significant and smells of a strong combination to crush your paper at any cost. Surely there are enough good, true and liberty-loving men in Richmond to rally to your support and shoulder the cost of all your legal battles. If not, I say God save Richmond politics from the clutches of the saloon, bawdy-house, and gambling element, which your little paper has fought so fearlessly for the past few months, and so successfully, and to suppress it now would be a shame on the lovers of civic righteousness in our beloved Capital City. I will cheerfully subscribe $25.00 to a defense fund, and trust that the lovers of honesty, truth and liberty of your city will rally to your support and hold up your hands in your manly fight for the betterment of Richmond. Sincerely yours,

Robert S. Barbour.

Announcement

THE IDEA is glad to announce that though the machinations of those who would suppress this paper have for this number made us content ourselves with a smaller affair; still we are able to state that THE IDEA will come out next week in its regular size, and in the future, thanks to the awakened interest of others who believe in fair play, will continue its fight better equipped than in the past, as far as its ability to publish is concerned.

Since writing the above we are enabled to come out in regular size.

The City Council--Why Called Robbers.

The papers of the 11th of last month stated that the crowds on Grace and Seventh street cried "Robbers" at the councilmen in the parade with President Taft, and the "crowd takes it up during parade and carries it along for blocks." Such an event is to be regretted, and it is sincerely hoped that a similar occurrence will never occur again; but it is even more to be regretted that conditions in Richmond are such as to make such an occurrence possible.

If it were not for the graft and scandal of public life with which the papers have been so filled for the last several months the people would not feel such animosity towards their councilmen, whom they so largely and rightfully hold responsible for such conditions.

No sane men believe that all councilmen are robbers, but all Richmonders know that some of them are, and that the council is such an ancient and unwieldly form of government that the few crooks in that body generally have their way, especially since so very few of the best men in the community will consent to run for membership in that body.

The writer has attended meetings of both branches of the council quite regularly for the past six months, and is of the carefully worded opinion that no real capable brilliant good men are in that body, but the most capable and brilliant men in that body are men whose private and public lives are vile and corrupt beyond measure, and who would do and have done the most outrageous crimes for their selfish pleasure and private gain. This is no hasty conclusion, but is the calm and unbiased opinion formed after months of study and minute observation and examination, and it would have been published earlier but for the fact that so many of our good citizens do not realize to what a low state our public affairs have fallen, and they honestly think that what THE IDEA says is exaggerated, and said through a desire after sensationalism.

The truth is that we have found the very truth so sensational that we often delay publication because the minds of the people are not ready to receive it.

If the citizens of Richmond would attend these meetings, which are all public, even committee meetings, except the finance committee, they would be willing to believe much more than THE IDEA has ever yet said.

Jokes about graft are of frequent occurrence both in councils and committees, and both in public debate and in private talk and discussion on the floors of these bodies. Let the people look and see, and then will they know and vote quickly to have government by commission.

BUT HE FOUGHT.

He was a-weary, but he fought his fight
And stood for simple manhood, and was joyed
To see the august broadening of the light,
And new earth's heaving heavenward from the void.
He loved his fellows, and their love was sweet—
Plant daisies at his head and at his feet.

Richard Lealf, about himself just before death.

Fair Play

An old negro man was addressing a little brown urchin. "Billy," he said, "Jimmy say he gwine beat you," to which Billy replied: "I don't cyar ef he do beat me; I don't cyar ef he kill me, des so he kill me fyar."

THE IDEA don't mind being opposed, and even sued, and would have no kick to make if this paper were beaten *fairly,* but when such contemptible and unfair methods as are at present being made are used, then THE IDEA does call on public sentiment to assert itself and demand fair play. If there is any decent citizen who thinks the deals now being pulled off for the embarrassment and breaking of this paper are fair, we'd like to see what he *looks like.* When the real depths of these plots has been fully published the citizens of Richmond will be astounded, to say the least.

SIT LUX—LET THERE BE LIGHT!

Some people love Richmond enough to make it *appear* better than it is.

Other people love Richmond enough to make it *be* better than it is—that's THE IDEA.

The method of one is concealment; the method of the other is exposure.

Concealment—Darkness—Crime.

Publicity—Light—Freedom.

Think you that Folk hurt Missouri by exposure, or that New Jersey is worse off because she knows who the rascals and thieves are, or that America is to be pitied because the meat packers have been brought into the light?

Turn on the light, even if the gas is bad, Sit Lux.

Twilight and evening star,
And one clear call for me,
And may there be no moaning of the bar
When I put out to sea.

Womam Suffrage of Course

THE IDEA rejoices to note that the women of Richmond are taking such a prominent position in regard to equal suffrage for men and women. We have never yet seen any sensible reason advanced against the proposition, and only the crookedness of politicians has prevented women from coming into their own long ago.

Politicians have everything to fear from the entrance of women into the arena; they know that questions will be settled more in reference to the question, Is it right? Of course, the press is generally with the politicians, who decide for them what they shall say.

It cannot be denied that those States which recognize the right of women to vote, and even to hold the highest offices, are the gainers by it.

THE IDEA will be glad to see the day when the women of Virginia may by their vote decide certain questions which to-day are undecided or decided wrong because some men are too selfish or too cowardly to settle rightly.

We do not contend that women should have the *privilege* of voting. We contend for their *right* to vote.

The Laborer's Thanksgiving.

About four times in the last two weeks the Street Committee of the City Council has been called to meet, and on each occasion there was no meeting because the councilmen could not be gotten together.

It was very important that a meeting should be held because the men of the street department could not get their pay until the committee signed their pay roll. But councilmen were too busy to meet, and so the poor workmen, some of whom were in dire need of their pay, for the laborer often cannot get credit since he has nothing but his salary to depend on, were kept without money for about two weeks beyond their pay day, and many

had to spend Thanksgiving without enough to eat, much less enough to feast on, while councilmen donned their high hats and promenaded the fashionable thoroughfares and sat down to sumptous dinners.

Whenever there is any political pie to be cut up these same councilmen are on hand early with beaming faces and hearty hand-shakes, but when it is simply to sign a pay roll for the day laborers or the hard working street force, then they can not be found, and the laborer goes hungry until the leisure council can meet to sign his pay roll.

The following is clipped from a daily paper of last week:

"STREET COMMITTEE TWICE LACKS QUORUM.

"The Street Committee of the City Council, together twice yesterday, failed each time to secure a quorum. It is not likely that any session will now be called, as the regular meeting is scheduled for Monday night, when the payrolls of the department will be given the committee's approval."

THE "DANVILLE REGISTER" ON RICHMOND PAPERS AND "THE IDEA."

A great deal of interest is being manifested not only in the city of Richmond, but throughout the State in the case of Adon A. Yoder for libel made by Police Justice Crutchfield and two police commissioners. Yoder is editor of a small pamphlet known as THE IDEA, the very name of which Richmond papers seem afraid to call, though it has figured in court proceedings. The publications therein have been made the basis of several large libel suits.

If the pamphlet were in any sense a serious rival of the press of that city this strange reluctance to even mention it might be understood, but surely the mere fact that its editor has criticized some of the daily papers does not constitute sufficient ground for suppressing the name of the weekly pamphlet.—*Danville Register, November 29th.*

A Real Letter from a Real Man The News Leader Scored

City Officials Roasted

Ginter Park, Richmond, Va., Dec. 1, 1909.

Editor of "The Idea":

My Dear Sir,—Sarcasm never hurt any man who was on the right side of a moral issue. Sarcasm never justified any man who was on the wrong side of a moral issue. Therefore when the editor of the *News-Leader* in Monday's edition attempts a sarcastic fling at you and your work his effort falls exceedingly flat.

In the first place, you had nothing to do with the appeal which was made by advertisements in the daily papers for contributions for your defence against the libel suits pending. This was a movement emanating from and now being carried out by your friends who did me the honor of appointing me to receive these contributions, so that if the *News-Leader's* suggestion of criminal action for obtaining money under false pretenses is followed up (and this would be in entire keeping with a recent criminal proceeding) I suppose I must be the unhappy victim.

As I have said to you in private, Mr. Editor, my interest in your work does not concern so much your fight against so-called "graft" in the management of the financial affairs of the city. Suffice it to say that there seems to be an abundance of evidence to substantiate your contentions along this line; such facts as these:

(1) The building of a worthless water system at an expense of tens of thousands of dollars; the payment of all or a large part of the contract price before the system is tested and found to be worthless.

(2) The building of a jail at enormous cost which in the course of a few years is found to be practically worthless.

(3) Numerous smaller items of loss to the city which any observant citizen will note from time to time.

All of which, or any one of which, facts suggest—

First, that there has been wholesale robbery either by city officials or contractors, or

Second, that city officials have been guilty of gross incompetency and mismanagement that would not be tolerated by any private corporation, or, if tolerated would mean inevitable ruin.

The editor of the *News-Leader* and those who think with him may take either horn of the dilemma they choose and get what consolation they can from the facts—facts that sarcasm and salf-praise can't annul.

As for many other good citizens, they prefer to take the first "horn" and do not hesitate to state daily upon the streets and in the offices that there is gross dishonesty and even downright thievery among city officials. Many of these citizens even call the names of those whom they suspect of wrong-doing, and when you have expressed in print your own views on this subject you have said no more than is connon talk from mouth to mouth.

But my interest in your fight does not concern this matter so much as another.

You are making a fight against certain immoral conditions which are known by most of our people to exist in some form, but which I am persuaded a larger proportion of the best people of the city do not know to exist to an appalling degree.

The editor of the *News-Leader,* however, by his own surprisingly frank statement admits his knowledge of these conditions, and even congratulates himself upon a real or fancied influence in causing the existence of these conditions in one section of the city rather than in another. I would like to believe that even the editor of the *News-Leader* does not know of the extent to which base immorality and the traffic in the virtue of girls and boys is carried on in this great city about whose splendors there is so much tiresome boasting. I would like to believe that the learned editor is the pure-minded gentleman one would imagine from some of his really able editorials; that since he

does not "nose around" in dark and dirty places seeking to find and stir out lurking filth to become a stench in the nostrils of holy people, he truly doesn't know that there is such hidden corruption.

Nevertheless, I am persuaded that the editor of the *News-Leader* does know of these horrible conditions, and that he is inexcusable for not using his acknowledged ability and influence to destroy these conditions. That he has such knowledge is shown—

(1) By the admission in his editorial of an acquaintance with the existence of, and certain influence in locating, these immoral places. ,

(2) By a letter sent to him some months ago by the undersigned in which an effort was made to acquaint the editor and his readers with these conditions.

(3) By certain court proceedings in recent notorious cases which the authorities were compelled to take cognizance of, and of which it is improbable that the editor of the *News-Leader* was ignorant.

(4) By the further sufficient fact that the said editor has been a newspaper reporter or editor for many years, and as such has seen enough of life in this and other cities to make it unlikely that he could be ignorant of even the worst of the conditions prevailing here.

I doubt exceedingly if any considerable number of citizens will be inclined to excuse the *News-Leader's* attitude upon the ground of the editor's ignorance.

Now for another fact: The existence of these immoral conditions about which the said editor knows, and which he admits he knows, is notoriously a violation of the criminal laws of the State—laws of which it is entirely improbable that the learned editor is ignorant.

Now, Mr. Editor, what strange state of affairs do we find?

(1) Notorious criminals openly practising the basest of all crimes.

(2) The editor of a great city daily admitedly aware of such criminal practices, and yet deliberately declining to use his

boasted influence for the relentless punishment of such criminals; and not only declining thus to use his influence, but boldly criticising a fellow editor who chooses to throw his influence positively upon the side of decency and law enforcement.

Furthermore, the editor of the *News-Leader* evidently sympathizes most heartily with the city police authorities in their attitude both toward the above mentioned criminals and towards the editor of THE IDEA, who has dared contend for law enforcement.

Let us see: Some two years ago the writer, accompanied by several well-known and most excellent gentlemen, went to the office of the present chief of police to make complaint against a certain disreputable place diagonally across the street and in full view of the front door of the church of which he was then pastor. This house was said to have been of this same character for at least twenty-five years, and certain patrolmen on the beat informed the writer that they knew all about the place, but that they had no orders in regard to it. The chief promptly agreed to make the disreputable people move out. Several days later the writer met the chief, who volunteered the information that he had just been around to give these same people moving orders. He stated that the woman objected and wanted to know what complaint the chief had against her. Whereupon the latter replied that he would appear against her himself if necessary.

And yet, Mr. Editor, notwithstanding the complaint of reputable citizens, notwithstanding the evident knowledge on the part of the police of her presence there, this notorious woman remained in that house more than a year from the time the matter was brought to the attention of the authorities who have sworn before God and man to enforce the law to the best of their ability. But this is not all, for when this woman moved out others of the same character moved in, and when upon a most emphatic protest from the writer these were compelled to vacate others even worse otok their place. Then THE IDEA published a brief account of the conditions. This was followed by another

move about which the writer is even now exceedingllv suspicious.

Remember, Mr. Editor, the above place is upon a street along which dozens of women and girls and boys must pass going to and from their daily toil. It is almost under the door of a Christian church which is attended by numerous women and children on every Sabbath day.

But this is not all. The writer took occasion to state to the chief of police that he had positive evidence of the following crimes: (1) Of the existence of these disreputable houses; (2) of the illegal sale in those houses of intoxicating drinks; (3) of the sale of such drinks on Sunday—all of which facts have long been known to the police authorities without the formality of such a statement from the writer. Did the chief offer to move in the case thus brought before him? By no means; but he replied in terms which the writer does not now deem it wise to disclose, but which give strong countenance to certain statements recently made in THE IDEA concerning these matters.

But, mind you now, when in view of these facts, the editor of THE IDEA dares to expose such gross, base, glaring violation of the criminal laws and the evident connivance of the authorities at such criminality and to suggest the most plausible explanation of such a state of affairs, and place the blame therefor, he is arrested in the dead of night on a "far-fetched" charge of criminal libel, hauled to the office of this same chief of police (though be it said in justice to him that he was absent) his private papers confiscated; he is driven through the streets in a patrol wagon, excessive bail is demanded, and he is thrust in a dirty cell until friends can come to his rescue and go on his bail bond; and all this is done by those very police authorities who have knowingly and persistently refused to enforce plain, unmistakable laws against people notoriously guilty of the basest of all crimes—traffic in the virtue of boys and girls.

Then, to cap the climax, the tditor of the *News-Leader,* the great city daily, in his editorial columns (which are worthy of a nobler cause) publicly satirizes the editor of THE IDEA, holds

him up to public ridicule and plainly sympathizes with this and other cowardly acts of persecution upon the part of sworn city officials, who by their official delinquency, *if by no graver offence,* have made themselves parties to the basest of crimes.

And yet the editor of the *News-Leader* pats himself upon the back for his good deeds in cleansing the common atmosphere and poses as a moulder of public opinion upon great moral questions! Well, those who take him seriously may follow his standard of right and wrong, and teach it to their children, but as for me, so long as all reason, common sense, right and LAW are upon my side I shall decline to have any usch standard of citizenship and morals foisted upon the boys and girls of my Sunday-school and the innocent mother and babe of my own household.

The editor of the *News-Leader* and the police authorities of the city of Richmond may rest assured that the last has not been heard in this controversy from the side of A. A. Yoder and his friends.

Yours for the boys and girls,

TILDEN SCHERER.

The Trial

On November 26th the trial of the editor on the warrant charging criminal libel was postponed until Tuesday morning, December 7th, at 11 o'clock A. M., because of the fact that Mr. C. V. Meredith, of counsel for the editor, was detained out of town in another case. It is hoped that this may be settled as early as possible, so that the question of the rights of the press in such cases may be clearly defined.

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The Contest will begin with the 1st of December and boys desiring to compete should begin today to work for their weekly subscriptions.

Boys should leave their names at the time of getting their papers so that we may keep an accurate record of their sales.

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—*South Bethlehem Globe.*

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THE IDEA

A SIGN OF THE TIMES

Vol. III December 11, 1909. No. 28



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THE IDEA

A Sign of the Times

VOL. III DECEMBER 11, 1909 No. 28

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Published Weekly on Saturday by ADON A. YODER,
904 Capitol Street, Richmond, Va.

Entered as second class mail matter July 10, 1909 at the Post Office at Richmond, Va.

An Interesting Libel Case

Richmond Office-Holders Scored

We print below a part of an editorial in the Danville Register of November 30th. The rest of this editorial was in last week's IDEA.

We shall not undertake to express an opinion in advance of the trial of the criminal charges against Yoder, for the reason that we know nothing of what justification, if any, he had for the publication concerning the persons who have charged him with criminal libel. His publications generally are criticisms of the city council and its acts; of city officials and employes, and of general charges of alleged misfeasance, malfeasance or dereliction of duty. Whether he is justified in his views or not, his publication is finding large sale, and is creating a great deal of talk and discussion. A casual inquiry and the most cursory observation must convince anyone that he has the support of many of the substantial men of highest standing. It is also true that almost the entire city government of Richmond is bitterly down on the man because of his publications. Merely to mention the name of Yoder in the City Hall is sufficient to call forth maledictions.

One thing that has created a sentiment of sympathy and support for Yoder is the apparent effort in some quarters to persecute him. He has been assaulted physically several times, and is treated with small, if any courtesy in many places supposed to be public and open to enquiry by citizens.

The crowning act of hostility by the official element in Richmond was the manner of his arrest and the effort to humiliate him by locking him up. The officer serving the warrant waited until night, when it would be most difficult to secure bail, and arrested the young man while he was attending a council meeting. Then he was taken to a distant police station and instead of being allowed to sit in the office while endeavoring to secure bail, was sent to the station house and placed in a cell. The crowning act of all was that of the magistrate who acted as bail commissioner who, whether through some ignorance or prejudice, demanded $1,000 bail of the young man, though there was never the slightest evidence that he would flee or evade trial. With much difficulty the bond was provided and Yoder released. As evidence that the bond demanded was excessive, it need only be added that, despite the comity existing between magistrates, Police Justice Crutchfield himself next day overruled his colleague and reduced the bond from $1,000 to $300.

One of the men whom Yoder is charged with criminally libelling is, we are reliably informed, connected with one of the daily newspapers of Richmond. Whether the attitude of the newspaper towards Yoder is affected by this fact, we do not undertake to say. Apparently, however, practically all the office-holding element and the majority of the local press seems to be anything but friendly towards this young man, who, whether guilty or innocent, has been convicted of no crime or misdemeanor, and is engaged in a legitimate enterprise. The trial of the case has been twice postponed, and it is hard to say when it will be heard. If Yoder is not acquitted at the preliminary hearing it is certain that the case will go to a jury, in which event the young man would probably stand a better chance. The city council, which is generally hostile to Yoder, had the designation of the trial magistrate for this case, and has named a young man who is employed in the high constable's office in the City Hall.

More Rottenness at the Settling Basin

Cement (?) Floor Crumbling Away, No Cinders and No Cement

In the past THE IDEA has had occasion to show that the settling basin was not simply buckling on account of the heat, but was actually rotten. Formerly we had to take the word of others, but now since the water is all turned off while the basin is being "patched up," we have taken the opportunity to go and examine personally the floor of the basin which has already cost the city many thousands of wasted dollars. The sight that greeted our eyes was astounding. There was not a piece of this solid cement (?) floor three yards square which did not show leak holes through which the water was seeping or leaking up from the mud on which it was laid. Besides from the fact that the cement is cracking or buckling as the engineer terms it, the whole basin is so porous and soft and rotten that it can be broken with the fingers. One can pick up a piece of this so-called cement work and crumble it in his hands, the contractors were so careful not to put in the necessary ingredients. The trouble seems to be that the inspectors were so bent on fishing or getting a rake-off that they did not see (?) it. A darky working on the job saw the writer pulling a piece of the floor to pieces with his hand and remarked, "Dat's pretty rotten stuff, ain't it boss? Some of it is so rotten dat it des falls to pieces by itse'f." A small clump of the soft material was lifted about three feet and dropped on another piece of the soft stuff and it burst into smithereens.

Not only does the stuff lack the main requisite, namely, cement, but the specifications as to the depth of the work were either faulty or entirely ignored. In either case the blame is on the engineering department, for the plan was his and the work was done by his department and under his supervision.

The talk that the basin can be repaired by patching is a fatal mistake. The idea that the botching was caused by heat is also a mistake, as the points most exposed to the sun are not as cracked as those on the side protected a part of the day by shadows. The stuff was not laid on a bed of cinder and sand except in places, and consequently was laid flat in the mud and is not thick enough to stand any pressure even if it had been of real cement.

The whole affair is a mammoth, monumental loss and expert contractors who have seen the work say it must all be taken up before the city gets through with it. As it is, money has been appropriated to take up a small part of it and relay it. This is the way the city always does. Officials do not like to let the people know all at one time that they have squandered their money, so they give it to them in broken doses. Soon they will call on the people for more.

Law Enforcement---Sunday Closing

About three weeks ago police were instructed to arrest violators of the Sunday closing law along West Broad Street. About a week before a petition was circulated on West Broad Street among the news dealers trying to get them to stop handling THE IDEA *because* THE IDEA stood for the enforcement of this Sunday observance law.

On the following Tuesday the offenders were hailed into court, and fined $5.00 each.

Before the last Legislature met it seems that the courts held that the law was insufficient to break up the offence, so a law was passed at the last session making this a misdemeanor, punishable with a fine of $5 or more for each offence and permitting the judge to "require a recognizance in a penalty of not less than $100 or more than $5,000, with or without security, conditional that such person shall be of good behavior and especially *to refrain from a repetition of such offence* for a period not exceeding twelve months."

Formerly an offender could break the law, pay the $2 fine, and go to work and sell again on the following Sunday. He might make a hundred dollars and pay his $2 for the privilege and keep up the work. Under the new law, however, "If a person on the Sabbath day (and in law Sabbath and Sunday mean the same) be found laboring at any trade or calling, or employ his apprentices or servants in labor or other business, except in household or other works of necessity or charity, he shall be deemed guilty," etc.

The police, therefore, under the new law *must arrest* and the judge *must fine* for every violation, and the judge now has power to *stop* the practice by requiring a heavy bond to be forfeited on the second offence.

But the records do not show that any bond was required, and therefore the next Sunday found the stores on Broad Street open as usual.

When a policeman was asked why he did not arrest on that Sunday, the 21st, he said he "had no instructions."

It will thus be seen that the arrests made were for some other purpose than breaking up the illegal practice.

If there had been any desire to enforce the law, bond for 12 months would have been required with $5,000 security if necessary, and the next Sunday arrests would have been made. This was not done.

THE IDEA therefore charges that the officers of the law are openly conniving at the violation of the law and do not care anything for their oaths of office.

This makes the case bad enough, but it becomes worse when it is seen that this makes it possible for an officer who has a grudge against a merchant to have him arrested and fined, while others who stand in may openly violate the law every Sunday, and even if they were fined $5 weekly, the merchants would rather submit than quit selling.

"Let a man once show the world that he feels
Afraid of its bark, and 'twill fly at his heels;
Let him fearlessly face it, 'twill leave him alone;
But 'twill fawn at his feet if he flings it a bone.

—*Lucile.*

Who Elects?---The Council or the Ring?

Now that Mr. Wilbur Griggs has acted as police justice in the recent case of the Commonwealth (in the shape of certain politicians) against the Editor, it is well to notice this big fact: The Editor of this paper had information that Mr. Griggs was slated and would sit in this trial about one week before the council ever came together, and before the councilmen knew who they were expected to vote for. The thing was cut and dried, and we suppose some of the councilmen actually thought they were doing the electing, for did they not unanimously *vote* to put Mr. Griggs into office for this trial?

Now notice how the machine worked.

The council met in joint session and Mr. Morgan Mills nominated Mr. Griggs. There was no opposition, for was not Mr. Morgan Mills a recognized leader, and who will dare say he is not of the ring, and a very big factor in that ring. No other name was proposed, although there were others much older in point of service than Mr. Griggs.

Note this, too—Mr. Griggs was bondsman for Mr. Griffin, who assaulted the Editor in August. Mr. Griggs was therefore the only man perhaps in the large body of police justices who had practically morally disqualified himself to sit in the case, and his action was so contrary to what the Editor had a right to expect of an officer of the law that he had been the subject of criticism by the Editor for his act in going Griffin's peace bond. But the council did not even question these things; they did what they were expected to do—elected without one word of question.

The Trial

As we go to printer the trial on the libel charge is on. See next week's number for particulars.

Taft-Day Extravagance and Graft

Barton Grundy Wants Secret Session

The other day the Taft Entertainment Committee met and the Editor of this paper betook himself over to the City Hall to meet with them.

For some reason or other the sight of the Editor seemed to strike consternation into the members, for immediately Mr. Barton Grundy moved that the committee go into executive session on the grounds, as he stated that the people ought not to know the details of the expenditures of that day. It soon became evident why a secret session was asked for, for the very first bill presented after the committee decided to have an open meeting was one for $37.50 from Mr. Ruskell, sergeant-at-arms for the council. He stated that his bill was not ordered, but that a representative of the Secret Service Department at Washington had come down to Richmond the day before the parade and wanted to go over the line of march. An automobile was gotten and some friends were called and these friends and Mr. Ruskell proceeded to have a good time at the expense of the tax-payers. They went over the line of march and then all together went to a hotel and got a big feed, which cost the $7.50 and the other thirty dollars was for the automobile for *six* hours at $5.00 an hour. Now notice that six hours, when a good automobile could make the line of march of perhaps thirty minutes, and ought not to have taken more than an hour or so at the utmost. And even then the cost should not have been more than four dollars for one hour, and if it had been necessary to get a machine for a long time, ordinary care could have secured one for about three dollars an hour, for that is all that was charged by a man who had machines to hire even on the day of the parade, when machines commanded a higher price than on other days. Yet the committee of good fellows voted to pay the bill, which was nothing more than a wanton waste, if *no worse*, of citizens' tax-money.

The next bill was for $30.00 for another automobile, which this same Mr. Ruskell had ordered used for the parade, although the committee had a plenty of private autos on hand. This was also ordered paid out of the citizen's pockets, although it was none of the people's business what that big parade cost. Then came the big bills, one for decorating the auditorium $600; then the Chamber of Commerce, $37.90; and then Col. Buford presented bills for $1,139.11 for entertaining the V. M. I. boys while here and then Col. Grundy presented a batch of bills and some interesting things developed.

He first presented one from the Jefferson Hotel, but did not give the amount, althought one of the councilmen asked what the amount was but soon seeing he had made a mistake and was about to let the cat out of the bag he said no more and the Colonel said nothing about it but went on to name the small amounts:

Band	$ 50 00
Invitations	86 00
Menus	50 00
Decorating Dining Room	350 00
Chart of Names	15 00

Some one then asked what the total of his bills were, but again there was no response from the Colonel.

The final total of all the bills was $5,565.61 and the writer then went to the clerk and found that the Jefferson dinner bill was $2,830.00, and the total of bills presented by Col. Grundy was $3,381.25.

Now, that $2,830.00 for one dinner sounds so big that the Editor will look it up and hopes to tell the readers next week how much of it went for wines, etc., etc., for be it known that the council seemed to think it their duty to drink like fish on that occasion, although the President, it is said, would not touch a drop and could hardly have felt honored by such a drink-fest.

WANTED—Three good job printers worth from $16.00 to $18.00 a week. Full particulars by addressing THE IDEA OFFICE, Advertising Department.

Secret Sessions

The Cunningham Whitewashing

On last Saturday the Cunningham Investigating Committee met and with them the Editor of this paper felt it his right and duty to meet.

After the meeting was called to order, Mr. Ferguson moved that the Committee go into executive session, and though Mr. Umlauf entered strong and vigorous protest still he was overruled and this committee dared to go into secret session although the very need for the investigation was made by an effort to conceal the transactions in question.

Though the object of the meeting was to inform the people as to their tax money, yet the Committee had the audacity to cover up the whole investigation by their high-handed action.

Gross charges of violation of the law have been made and the people should have the facts for they are the sovereigns and no petty Committee has any moral or legal right to conceal from the people the facts as to any alleged misappropriation of their funds.

Messrs. Umlauf and Fuller should be commended and Messrs. Ferguson, Moncure and Gilman should be harshly censured for their unwarranted action.

The government should be run in the interests of the people who are governed by it and not in the interest of Mr. Cunningham or Mr. Sands or any other of the good fellows to whom Mr. Cunningham has been lending the citizens money.

Let the people know the facts. It is high time this Committee's white washing business were stopped. We'll have more to say about this later.

West-End Letter

The Annexed Territory Wants The City to Keep Its Promises

Editor of THE IDEA,

Dear Sir:—Enclosed find $2.50 for your defense fund. I am only sorry that I am not able to make it $100.00, your valuable Paper is something that has long been needed in this community, and with the able counsel you have secured, and the honesty and righteousness which you are advocating you need have no fears of ever being convicted in the Courts of Virginia. The good people of this State will stand by you until the last ditch is crossed. If the editors of some of our daily papers would only assist you in exposing some of the rottenness going on in our city, instead of trying to belittle you they would be much more thought of by their readers. Just keep up your good work and you will see one of the greatest political upheavels that has occurred since the reform election nearly a quarter of a century ago.

Some time ago there was $40,000 of the people's money spent to open up a street through the Doctor Sheppard's Property, where there was no improved property whatever. Who was benefitted by this proposition? And, now, I see that our City Fathers are contemplating opening another Boulevard, just inside the Western City Limits at a cost of thousands of dollars which could be very easily done without until more needed improvements are made, some of which are of vast importance to the health of the citizens who are now so unjustly taxed for something that they are not getting. We already have one fine Boulevard just a short distance from the one proposed to be built, and if our Street Committee would order the culvert and water pipes put in Cary Street from the Boulevard to the City Limits and then macadamize the street there would be no need of spending all this money for the new Boulevard, until some of the property along this new Boulevard shows some sign of improvement. Give the people

that are now paying taxes on improved property some improvements that are sadly needed first and then look after the unimproved out lying district later on. I wonder, Mr. Editor, if our councilmen do not think that the voters take notice of all these little things. You can fool some people some times but you can not fool all the people all the time. The citizens of the annexed territory have little talks among themselves every once in a while, and mark my prediction: when the next Primary Election is held there will be some very great surprises that will take place. So our councilmen from Clay Ward had better be getting busy as the voters are going to judge them by their deeds both good and bad. The people from the Boulevard on Cary Street to the county line have no light at night and no side walk, and are always in danger of breaking their limbs slipping in the mud in wet weather. Not over two weeks ago a lady was chased from the Boulevard and Cary Street to Mrs. Leibs grocery store by a negro. It is really dangerous for our wives to go out of their homes at night in this wilderness of darkness and still with all this our city wants to take in Manchester to help improve that poor city. In my opinion the people of Manchester had better let well enough alone as the City of Richmond is one of the greatest Promise Making Cities in the United States and keeps about as few of them as any city that I know of. When they annexed a large portion of Henrico county, the people were promised there would be no increase of taxes for five years. Did they keep that promise? No. Then I wish, Mr. Editor, I could take you over this annexed territory and show you how the Annexation Committee laid off this territory. It would surprise you to see the discrimination in more ways than one. I would respectfully invite the Manchester Committee to look over this territory before they jump in to the fire. If we do not get some relief soon I shall write an article for your paper weekly on this subject and as I am promised some good information from parties on the inside, I am quite sure we will make some of our councilmen sit up and take notice.

Respectfully yours,
CLAY WARD ANNEX.

The Laborer Pays the Bill

City Hands Laid Off

Much complaint is made by employees in the Engineering Department because of the fact that the men are laid off many days in the month ostensibly for lack of funds with which to pay them for full time.

We would enquire why this shortage of funds? Is it because the Engineering Department has squandered the people's money in Fairmount and other places? The men think so.

When the engineer makes a blunder, is it necessary for the poor man to suffer when he is least able to bear it, as winter and Christmas come on?

It is noticed that the engineer is not docked, nor are others high up. No; the man at the bottom always bears the burden both of excessive taxes, of wastful extravagance and all other evils that effect the public welfare.

Was the Trial Legal

It now develops that Mr. Griggs was legally disqualified from sitting by the fact that he was a deputy in the High Constable's office. The law very clearly states that no one elected as sheriff, constable, etc., or deputy of the same, shall act as justice of the peace; and the very fact that he is such an officer vacates his office as justice of the peace.

It therefore appears that, not only did Mr. Griggs have no moral right to sit, but also he had no legal right to sit, and yet in face of the protest of attorney for the defense, he did sit.

GAME MUST COME DOWN.

Mr. Yoder: This will help the cause a little. I buy from a boy friend. Keep things lively; you are barking up the right tree. Game bound to come down after awhile. With best wishes,

The above letter enclosing a contribution to the lawyers' fee fund came from a prominent merchant and was so brief and to the point that we deemed it worthy of publication in our crowded pages.

Announcement

While there was danger at one time that as a result of the abundance of suits for damages against the printers of THE IDEA, this paper would miss a number or two, there never has been any possibility of our discontinuing the publication.

Arrangements have been made for the printing, and even if no arrangements had been made locally, there are other printers in the United States, and THE IDEA would not discontinue if the work had to be done in Kalamazoo or Ballyhack. We did not start this publication to be bluffed off, though it looked for a time as though we would be seriously inconvenienced to the extent of missing a number.

Below we print a letter from a Richmond school teacher whose name we did not have time to get permission to use, as the letter came as we were going to the printer. This is one of the many such communications from the ladies, who can always be counted on in a moral fight.

A TEACHER WRITES

Mr. Adon A. Yoder,
904 Capitol Street, City.

My Dear Mr. Yoder:

If you are the man you have led the public to believe (and *I* sincerely believe that you are), you will not even *consider* "*giving it up.*"

Let the citizens who stand for the *Right* respond to your appeal—helping, here and now, all they will, or can—then do not be afraid to *borrow*, with 6 per cent. interest, what is necessary to continue this good work. Do *not* be run out! Stick to it! Hang on! Fearlessly assert your manhood and *your rights*, at any cost, "*wholly trusting.*" If you *hope* to be a *Reformer*, *prepare* to be a *Martyr.*

"Heaven is above all yet; there sits a Judge
That no king can corrupt."—Shakspere.

Be sure that you are *right*, and then go ahead.

I enclose $2.00—my mite—in response to your appeal, wishing I could make it many times the amount.

Do you not know of E. G. Lewis, editor of "The National Daily" and "Woman's Magazine," of St. Louis? Of how he started his little "ten-cents-a-year" magazine with less than $2 capital; of his trials and persecutions and of how grandly and bravely he has come through? He should be a source of inspiration to you at this time.

Trusting that you will continue your good work, and believing that all will come right,

Very sincerely your friend,

LATER
Concerning the Reports of Trial

The IDEA will show next week that The Times Dispatch's report of the Libel Trial is absolutely false and misleading, and that the decision of the Justice was contrary both to the evidence and the law laid down by the Supreme Court.

The accurate public stenographic reports of the proceedings will be printed, and citizens may see for themselves what a farce has been enacted.

My Creed

I would be true, for there are those who trust me;
I would be pure, for there are those who care;
I would be strong, for there is much to suffer;
I would be brave, for there is much to dare;
I would be friend of all—the foe—the friendless;
I would be giving and forget the gift;
I would be humble, for I know my weakness;
I would look up—and laugh—and love—and lift.

Howard Arnold Walter.

Contributed

"Dum spiro, spero"—What a motto is this: "While I breathe, I hope!"

"Let feeble mortals trust to luck;
The man who has a fund of pluck
Will soon behind him leave the ruck
Of those who fear, O!
Try all you know and if you fail,
What matter? 'Tis in turning tail
Lies the disgrace. When others quail,
'Dum spiro, spero!'."

WHERE THE FIGHT IS STRONG.

It is great to be out where the fight is strong
To be where the bravest troops belong,
And to fight there for man and God!

Oh, it seams the face and dries the brain,
It strains the arm till one's friend is pain,
In the fight for man and God!

But it's great to be out where the fight is strong,
To be where the heaviest troops belong,
And to fight there for man and God!

—*C. B. McAfee.*

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Newsboys who get the greatest number of weekly subscribers and other prizes to those who sell the most copies.

The Contest will begin with the 1st of December and boys desiring to compete should begin today to work for their weekly subscriptions.

Boys should leave their names at the time of getting their papers so that we may keep an accurate record of their sales.

Some time ago THE IDEA gave away a Watch and nine other valuable prizes, and the winning boys did good work. One boy selling 112 copies of THE IDEA of one issue. There is good money in it for the boys besides the prizes.

AT

DRINKARD'S

FOR

XMAS

Fruit Cake, 15c, 20c, 25c a pound, all sizes
Marble Cake, 12½c, Nice Pound Cake, 25c
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—*South Bethlehem Globe.*

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WEEKLY 5c THE COPY

THE IDEA

A SIGN OF THE TIMES

Vol. III December 18, 1909. No. 29



THE POLICE COMMISSION AT BAY

FOR SALE AT ALL NEWS STANDS

BEING SOME SERMONETTES PUBLISHED WEEKLY FOR THE COMMON GOOD AT RICHMOND, VIRGINIA, By ADON A. YODER, EDITOR AND PUBLISHER, 904 CAPITOL ST., RICHMOND, VA.

PRINTED AT ELSEWHERE.

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You want information as to what is best to give medical students at Christmas, January 1st or at Commencement Exercises. This we can give you of the most satisfactory character.

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NOTICE BOYS!

THE IDEA will be put on sale next week on Friday instead of Saturday, as Saturday will be Christmas Day.

THE IDEA

A Sign of the Times

VOL. III DECEMBER 18, 1909 NO. 29

5 CENTS A COPY $2.00 A YEAR

Published Weekly on Saturday by ADON A. YODER,
904 Capitol Street, Richmond, Va.

Entered as second class mail matter July 10, 1909 at the Post Office at Richmond, Va.

The Times Dispatch Report False

Suit May be Entered for Damages

In the last number of THE IDEA the statement was made that we would show this week that the Times-Dispatch report of the trial was false.

Let us take the very first sentence in that article. The Times-Dispatch printed this sentence in black face type. That sentence begins as follows: "Adon A. Yoder, who stated on the witness stand that he came here to reform Richmond."

Adon A. Yoder did not state on the witness stand or anywhere else that he came here to reform Richmond; therefore, we state emphatically that the Times-Dispatch with the actual evidence before them deliberately falsified and that not only was this statement untrue, but the whole article was calculated to give an impression exactly contrary to that anyone attending the trial would have gotten. We will state further that the Times-Dispatch article is in fact a malicious libel and that as a result of it this paper has been financially damaged and that the editor may yet sue the morning paper for damages, which any jury would be compelled to grant under the law, for the law states

that damaging untruths are libelous except where the "communication is privileged"; that is, where the complainants are public officials. The Editor of this paper is not a public official and when he is slandered he does not even have to prove malice (malice may be presumed in the civil case—a suit for damages—if the occasion be not privileged); he may simply show he has been damaged and prove the falsity of the article.

If, however, the criticism had been of a public official and gross falsehoods had been stated, such an official could not get damages unless he proved actual malice on the part of the publisher.

In other words, the laws of this State permit the utmost freedom of discussion of the public acts of public officials and do not hold a publisher liable for errors or misstatements made if they be made with honest intent in the interest of society, or if the occasion justified the deduction, howsoever false or harsh.

The Times-Dispatch states further in its second sentence in black face type: "All of his printed charges, etc., were disproved by the testimony, etc."

This is also absolutely false.

On only one minor point of fact in connection with THE IDEA'S report of the trial did the prosecution bring evidence to contradict and that evidence was not and can not be sustained.

THE IDEA stated "Chris Manning sat and Douglas Gordon stood behind Justice John and engaged him in conversation during the course of the trial." Now the law does not require that this be proven true, though it is every word true and every word which we are called on to prove we can prove. It must be remembered that the witnesses for the defense have not been heard, but will be heard in the Hustings Court before a jury, and then things will come to light that will make Police Commissioners and officers feel like thirty cents of counterfeit money.

Only one of the witnesses has taken issue with the direct statement of THE IDEA and his contradiction amounts to nothing, for as Mr. Meredith stated and as it was proven during the trial, he had violated his oath of office.

As the Editor stated on the stand, Mr. Crutchfield turned to Manning and spoke to him and Mr. Manning certainly by his gestures and most likely by word of mouth, though we did

not see his mouth, answered him. And Mr. Gordon leaned forward to hear the talk; we do not know whether he spoke or not, but we do know that the statement made was justified and is true that they "engaged him in conversation during the course of the trial."

The statements of the two yeoung men, one of them, be it remembered, a Times-Dispatch reporter, that they did not see the conversation amounts to nothing. No one could so keep his eye in one place unless he felt that his sole duty on that occasion, as to make sure that two or three people right together did *not* speak a word.

The writer was immediately in front of Justice John and looking in his direction, and yet he would not dare to claim that he saw everything that occurred in the court on that occasion. What he saw he knows he saw. What he did not see or others did not see, neither he nor the others know anything about.

Even Mr. Gordon, who also was proven to have violated his oath of office, did not deny that our statement was true. Gordon simply stated, "I did not speak to him (Justice John), nor he to me." As far as we have stated or know, that may be true.

Now notice what Justice John said.

Mr. Smith: "Do you recall that either one of these gentlemen spoke to you about this trial?"

Mr. Crutchfield: "I do not."

Mr. Crutchfield did not deny and cannot deny that he was engaged in conversation with them during the trial.

THE IDEA has never claimed that its Editor knew anything about what that conversation in whispers twenty feet away was about.

We claimed that that conversation did take place and Chris Manning alone dared deny it. He said, "I never opened my mouth to him (Justice John), and he never opened his mouth to me." And the public and the jury, when they hear all the evidence, may decide for themselves who told the truth, the man who has admittedly violated his oath of office and now when his protection of houses of ill fame is about to be shown up is seeking money damages, or the editor of a paper gotten out "for the common good" and in the interests of decency and order and law enforcement and clean government, and for the betterment

of the social and moral and political conditions of Richmond and Virginia.

The article in the Times-Dispatch, which did such a gross injustice to the editor of this paper is the first article in the first column of the first page of that paper and is the most conspicuously headed article in the whole paper.

The main heading reads in type about one-half inch high: "Court Orders Yoder to Jail for 15 Days."

This in itself was misleading, for the court simply passed sentence and an appeal was taken.

The headlines also stated: "Accused . . . failed to support charge with evidence," as if the Editor had made some attempt and failed at it, when the writer of the article knew that the Editor was not required to substantiate his statements with witnesses and did not even put on the stand the witnesses summoned by him and that the law was so plain in respect to the truth of those details the Editor's attorneys did not even make mention of the fact, in their argument, that the prosecution failed to disprove the statements made by the Editor.

It makes no difference in law whether mistakes had been made or not—everybody makes mistakes—though the Editor made absolutely none in the article in question.

In this connection, it is pertinent to ask whether Mr. Fitzgerald who gave his services to these police commissioners to testify against THE IDEA by stating that he did not see the conversation, was also the reporter for that paper on this occasion.

How can the people expect a fair account when the Times-Dispatch reporter is a witness on one side? and the Times-Dispatch seems from its biased reports to be so desirous of getting rid of THE IDEA because it has exposed that paper's crooked methods, as it did when a certain prominent preacher had occasion to state that their accounts were absolutely false.

THE IDEA wants to reiterate that its statements on which the libel charge is based are both just and true and that if we had known then what we know now that article might have been much more harsh on these commissioners who are open violators of their oaths of office, and who maintain with the criminal element of this city a corrupt alliance whereby on certain vague

and secret conditions they are protected from the arm of the law and the sworn under officers of the law are made to violate their oaths of office for fear of losing their positions if they dare attempt to carry out the law.

Up to the Mayor

Law Says Mayor Must Dismiss Cunningham

Now that the Council Investigating Committee has whitewashed the Cunningham affair, and not even recommended that the law be enforced, which *requires* his removal, it is up to the Mayor, on whom the law lays the duty of removal, to declare the office of City Collector vacated for "malfeasance in office" and "corrupt perjury."

The committee's report shows that the Collector did swear falsely, and section 4, chapter 10, of the Code, says, "and the person so sworn shall, if he swear falsely, be guilty of wilful and corrupt perjury, and shall be subject to punishment by imprisonment in the penitentiary for not less than one nor more than five years."

Neither the Council nor the Mayor has a right to refuse to do their duty because *they* think best to do otherwise under the circumstances. The laws were made to govern and not to be set aside at the discretion of any man or body of men, except the Legislature which made them.

The fact is, there seems to be no regard for oaths of office in Richmond. The Mayor violates his oath; the Council violates theirs; the police commissioners violate theirs; the Collector violates his, and one has just as much right as the other to violate his oath.

With the present respect for law on the part of those in authority, it is no wonder that our papers are filled continually with news of malfeasance, extravagance, waste, graft, and corruption in the governmental affairs of the city.

IN RICHMOND

A man may shoot another in the street and go free.

A man may misappropriate city money and go free.

A man may criticise crookedness in public life and ——— be sentenced to jail.

You may kill, or lie, or steal, but you must not write, even the truth.

Testimony in the Libel Case

Chief Werner "Can't Understand," and the Crowd Laughs

By Mr. Meredith:

Q. You are the Chief of Police of the city? A. Yes, sir. Q. For how long a period have you been such? A. Ever since 1905—May 15th. Q. Does it come within the scope of your duties to close houses of ill fame? A. Yes, sir. Q. Has it been done in the city of Richmond? A. Yes, sir—to some extent, yes, sir. Q. Has it been done with the house of Miss Malloy? A. I don't know that she kept a house of ill fame. Q. You did not know that? A. No, sir. Q. You have been on the police force how long? A. Twenty-two years. Q. And you did not know she kept a house of ill fame, or assignation house? A. No, sir. Within the last eight months I have heard it rumored, you understand—by reputation—but before that the only thing I knew of against the house was selling liquor without a license, on and off there all the time. Q. You never heard that she kept a house of ill fame? A. No, sir. Q. Were you ever stationed in that section of the city? A. Yes, sir. Q. As what—Captain? A. No, sir, Sergeant. Q. Were you also a private there? A. Yes, sir. Q. All during your time of service there you never heard this? A. No, sir. Q. And never saw anything to indicate it? A. No, sir—nothing but the sale of liquor; I have tried to catch

her time and again, and have reported her for selling liquor on Sunday. Q. Do you keep in your office the pictures of loose women? Yes, sir. Q. Have you that of her's in there? A. No, sir. Q. Did you ever try to get it? A. No, sir. Q. What do you do with the pictures? What is the object of taking the pictures? A. The object of the picture is so that we may know exactly every prostitute in the city of Richmond—every known prostitue. Q. Do you know where they are located? A. Yes, sir. Q. When you locate them do you turn them out? A. Do I do what? Q. Do you make them move—get away from where they are, after you locate them? A. No, sir—I can't exactly understand that question, Mr. Meredith.

Objection by counsel for the prosecution. Objection sustained.

At this point a lengthy argument ensued over the admisison of evidence and the justice decided that the defense could not introduce evidence to show that "there was a corrupt alliance between the trade in vice and the police department," although that statement was made a part of the warrant charging the libel.

Mr. Meredith Protests as Justice Griggs Continually Rules Against Him

Folkes Under Fire, Finally Speaks

Although the Commonwealth's Attorney, Mr. Folkes, afterwards admitted that there was some doubt even in his mind as to whether this evidence should be admitted, still he would not say that before the court made his decision, but let these private attorneys dictate to the justice what he should allow and what not. He indeed looked ashamed when Mr. Meredith taunted him for not being fair enough to state to the justice that he ought to admit this evidence.

It was extremely amusing to see Major Werner squirm when Mr. Meredith asked, "When you locate them do you turn them out?" Chief Werner moved about uneasily in his chair and said, "Do I do what? I can't exactly understand that question."

The real trouble was that that question was a little *too* plain.

and he understood it a little *too* well, and an answer to it would show just exactly what THE IDEA claimed, namely, a corrupt alliance, and so the justice very readily ruled out that kind of evidence. The crowd was first astounded and then smiled at the audacity and ridiculousness of the incident.

By Mr. Meredith:

Q. Mr. Werner, don't answer this question until we see if it is objected to: I believe it comes within the ruling of the Justice: How long have you been taking these photographs? A. Since November, 1906. Q. How long have the two commissioners here that are now in office, and named in this warrant, been members of the Police Board? A. Well, Mr. Manning was a member at the time; I am not very positive—no, I am sure Mr. Gordon was not a member at that time. Q. That has been kept up since? A. Yes, sir. Q. Under whose orders do you take these photographs? A. On whose orders? Well, I would have to explain that—I would have to go way back.

Mr. Smith: Is not that going into the matter that has been ruled out? The Justice: As I said before, the court's ruling is that you must confine yourself strictly to the charge contained in this warrant.

Mr. Meredith: If I am allowed to ask when they began to take the photographs—when these two commissioners were on the Board—I do not see why I am not allowed to ask under whose orders these photographs were taken.

Mr. Patteson: I would like to ask a question along that same line. I would like to know who pays for these photographs?

Mr. Simth: We object, if you Honor please.

The Justice: He can answer that.

Witness: The women themselves.

By Mr. Patteson: Q. Who collects the money? A. You will have to ask the man who photographs them; I don't know.

By Mr. Meredith: Q. Who goes with them to have their photographs taken? A. They go by themselves. Q. They have their photographs taken, and pay for them there, and you don't have anything to do with that? A. No. Q. You are presented with one of them? A. Yes, sir. With their location on them? A. Yes, sir, everything. Q. There is no trouble in finding them? A. No, sir.

Mr. Smith: Are we not going contrary to your Honor's ruling? Is this testimony confining the issue to the Malloy case? The Justice: No, sir, not strictly speaking, it is not; and the court rules that you can not bring up any other question but what pertains to the Malloy trial, and the Malloy case.

Mr. Meredith: We have no other question to ask—on account of your Honor's ruling. We protest against the ruling; we had a good many other questions to ask, to throw light on the situation; but the Commonwealth's Attorney has said nothing—

Commonwealth's Attorney: Mr. Meredith keeps referring to my not being heard. The question was very fully argued by the learned gentleman himself, and by the gentleman who appeared for the Commonwealth; they went into the matter fully, and your Honor made your ruling, and you made it immediately when these gentlemen were through with their argument, and it was not necessary for me then to say anything; because you made your ruling, as Mr. Meredith will recall—made it two or three times, in fact; and then you allowed questions to be asked, if your Honor will allow me to say it, which you should not have allowed. You have ruled, and I don't think it is necessary for me to consume the time of the court in any argument on the question, at all. Your Honor has ruled two or three times, and the questions have ben ruled out; now why should I be called upon to consume the time of the court in this matter.

Mr. Meredith: You ought to join with us, and say to his Honor that he ought to allow us to ask the question.

Justice John in a Tangle

SAYS HE FINED THE WOMAN FOR RUNNING A DISORDERLY HOUSE BECAUSE PEOPLE CONGREGATED THERE FOR THE PURPOSE OF GETTING WHISKEY, YET HE DISMISSED THE WOMAN 5 MINUTES BEFORE ON THE WHISKEY SELLING CHARGE.

By Mr. Smith: Q. Do you recall reading the issue of November 6th, headed, "Reign of Crime—Political Disorderly Housekeeper Given Light Sentence, and Why"? A. Yes, sir. Q. As to So-

phie Malloy, the language is: "Now this party, Sophie Malloy, operated a notorious assignation house on lower Main Street, under the protection of the Police Department, for certain party officials were interested in the house. Justice John called the place the worst in the city; and yet, read carefully how the case turned out. Now, in the first place, Mr. Crutchfield, did you at the time of the trial of this case know that this place was a notorious assignation house? A. No, sir. Q. You did not know it. Did you know it was an assignation house? A. I did not know—but I made that statement. Q. Which statement? A. That it was one of the worst places in Richmond. Q. Why did you say that? A. Because I believed it was a "speak-easy," where whiskey had been sold without license for a long time, and I had been trying to catch it. Q. It was in that connection that you made the remark? A. I never heard the place charged with being an assignation house. Q. How long have you been after this woman for selling liquor without a license, do you remember? A. A long, lone time. I regarded it as one of the worst places we had in town, as a disorderly house. Q. What was the particular disorder? A. The disorder was that I believed it was a "speak-easy," where whiskey was sold without a license, where whites and blacks congregated, but I did not know of any immoral purpose. Q. You thought it was what? A. I thought it was a place where they congregated for the purpose of getting whiskey. Q. And not for immoral purposes? A. I had no reason to suspicion that. Q. And when you did say it was one of the worst places in the city—A. I said that then, and say it now. Q. You never heard any intimation that it was an assignation house? A. No, sir. Q. The next part of the article says: "There were two charges against the woman"—that is the Malloy woman—"one of selling whiskey without a license, and the other for keeping a disorderly house." That is true, is it not? A. Yes, sir. Q. "She was dismissed on the first charge"—that is, selling liquor without a license—"although the evidence was convincing that she was guilty, as she had sold to the Conway-Torrence crowd." Is that true, that the evidence was convincing? A. No, sir; I will tell you exactly what I said; I think I can recall it. I said when the case was closed, for selling whiskey—I think I made this remark, or about this: "If I were

to render a decision in this case according to my personal views, my decision would be far different from the one I am going to render to-day. This case is dismissed." Q. Was there any evidence upon which you could have convicted her for selling liquor without a license? A. The evidence was not satisfactory to my mind—not enough to convince me that I ought to convict. I had my personal view. Q. But as a sworn officer was there sufficient evidence for you to convict her? A. As a judicial officer the evidence did not justify me in convicting her; and I certainly did my best. Q. You did your best? What do you mean by that? A. I inquired into every point it was possible to inquire into; I let nothing escape me. The case was fought very hard. Q. On the second charge—keeping a house of ill-fame—her attorney, Mr. Pollock, pleaded guilty for her, and she was fined one hundred dollars. A. I did not try her for keeping a house of ill-fame. Q. Was there any warrant charging her with keeping a house of ill-fame? A. Not before me. Q. Now, keeping a house of ill-fame, it may be well to know, is punishable by confinement—on a warrant charging a person with keeping a house of ill-fame, does the statute require that there shall be jail punishment? A. I think so. Q. Is there any doubt about it? A. I think not. Q. On conviction of keeping a disorderly house is the jail sentence compulsory? A. Not necessarily, in my judgment. Q. So then, the Maggie Lee, whom you convicted and gave a jail sentence was not convicted on a similar charge? A. No, sir. Q. She was convicted of keeping a house of ill-fame, and the Malloy woman of keeping a disorderly house? A. That's it. Q. Do you know whether Sophie Malloy was born in this house, or not? A. She has been living there for many, many years. Q. Did you know her father? A. Yes, sir—John K. Malloy. Q. How long had her father been living there? A. For many, many years; I could not say how long. Q. With reference to the close of the war, how long had he been there? A. I don't know; I recollect him when I was a very young man. Q. Do you know whether the property belongs to them, or not? A. She told me—or someone told me—of course this is not evidence,—that when she got through with this thing that house would be certainly broken up. I may have gotten that from Captain Barfoot, I don't know. By Mr. Meredith:

Q. What kind of house would be broken up? A. I reckon she meant disorderly house; that is all the charge I had against her—keeping a disorderly house.

By Mr. Smith:

Q. (reads) Chris Manning sat, and Douglas Gordon stood behind Justice John, and engaged him in conversation during the course of the trial." Do you recall that either one of these gentlemen spoke to you about this trial? A. I do not. Q. Do you recall whether Mr. Douglas Gordon was here at the time she was tried? A. I could not say whether he was here or not, of my own knowledge I heard Mr. Gordon say he was standing behind me for awhile. Mr. Manning sat in a chair just to my left, a little behind me. Q. Did either, Mr. Manning or Douglas Gordon say anything to you about what your decision should be in the trial of Sophie Malloy? A. No one ever spoke to me about the Malloy case, except her counsel. Q. Was that openly in court, or privately? A. No, sir; he asked me what I would do if she plead guilty to keeping a disorderly house. Q. Is that done frequently in this court? A. Any time. And I told him exactly what I would do, too. Q. Did Mr. Manning or Mr. Gordon intervene in this case, at all? Did they say one word to influence your decision? A. I never heard Mr. Manning or Mr. Gordon speak of this case in any manner, shape or form, until after the trial was over. Q. It says that the combination of Manning, Gordon, Pollock and Leaman, with yourself, Justice John, is responsible for the fact that this notorious creature, who has operated for years in the same place, and known to the police as the worst kind of a joint for the ruination of young girls, and for the meetings of married women with other men—I understand you to say that you never heard of that before? A. I never heard of its being an assignation house. Q. Are you a party to any combination in any shape or form, for protecting Sophie Malloy? A. Neither her, nor any other woman of that character. Q. Have you any agreement, expressed or implied, with any person whatever—especially with Manning and Gordon—that you will be easy on Sophie Malloy if she is caught? A. No, sir, and I will say right here that my fine was four to five times as heavy on Sophie Malloy as I generally impose on houses of like character. My fine is generally either twenty or twenty-five dollars for

houses of that character, but I told Sophie Malloy's counsel if she plead guilty that the lowest fine would be one hundred dollars. Q. The article states that this combination was responsible for the fact that simply a fine and no jail sentence was imposed upon her. Is any combination responsible for that? A. No, sir. Q. And that for a similar offence another woman on the same kind of evidence, though not quite as convicting evidence, of the same parties, was fined the same amount and jailed for thirty days. Did you go into any evidence at all in the Malloy case? A. That statement is incorrect, because in the Malloy case I heard no evidence whatever. I inflicted punishment on a plea of guilty. Q. (reads) There is absolutely no doubt that the woman who got the lighter sentence was guilty of the greater crime. Is there anything to justify that statement? A. No, sir. Q. (reads) "But unfortunately for Maggie Lee the Police Commissioners and others in authority did not grace the occasion with their influential presence. Justice John has no excuse to offer for his light sentence for so flagrant a crime. THE IDEA has all along claimed that there was a corrupt alliance between the trade in vice, and the Police Department, and that was apparently shown by the reluctance of the Police Justice in passing sentence, and the lightness of the verdict, and the presence of the Police Commissioners and others." Is that true, that there was any reluctance on your part in passing sentence? A. None on earth. Q. Did you regard the verdict as light? A. I did not. I thought it was four or five times greater than I generally inflicted.

Crutchfield Had Evidence--Should Have Issued Bench Warrant

Meredith Confounded the Justice, Who Refused to Answer Directly

CROSS-EXAMINATION.

By Mr. Meredith:

Q. What did you fine her for? A. She was charged before me with keeping a disorderly house. Q. What does that mean? A. Well, a disorderly house is a house where rows

and disturbances occur, and where people who are suspected of violating the law and everything else go; and on that charge she plead guilty. Q. Could it cover the fact that they met there for immoral purposes, also? A. It might be construed that way. Q. Don't the law allow you, under the charge of keeping a disorderly house, to prove that people met there for purposes of cohabitation? A. Yes, if it can be proved. Q. Was there not proof that two married women met men there? A. Yes, sir, in another case.

Q. Then you knew and had before you information that they kept what amounted to a house of ill-fame? A. Yes, but all the witnesses swore in that case that nothing had been done wrong. Q. Do you take that kind of statements? A. I had to take them. Q. Don't you know that if it is proven that two married women meet two young men in a house which you say the worst in town, that you had the right to believe they were there for improper purposes, and that you had the right to convict? A. I might believe it, but not have the right to convict. Q. Don't you think the proof was sufficient to justify a conviction? A. I had no right to convict, because I had to be satisfied beyond all reasonable doubt. Q. How many cases of keeping a house of ill fame have you ever had the proof presented of their being caught in improper acts? A. There is a good deal of difference in the proof required in the keeping of a house of ill-fame, and keeping a disorderly house. In the case of a house of ill-fame you can take the general reputation of the house;; but with a disorderly house it is different. Q. Can't you take into consideration the fact of who goes in there and gets rooms, and how long they are there? A. That may be, but the law is entirely different, in the rules of evidence—not the rules of evidence, but the law about convicting is entirely different, in the case of a house of ill-fame, and the case of a disorderly house. Q. You stated that under the charge of keeping a disorderly house you could have convicted her of keeping a house where people met for improper purposes—for immoral purposes. A. I said if I had the evidence. Q. You had the proof in the preceding case—in the liquor case, which just preceded it. A. No, because they said nothing immoral was done there. Q. Did you expect them to confess it? A. No, I did not expect that, but I expected the Commonwealth to prove it. Q. Don't you think that the Com-

monwealth proved it pretty well when it showed that two married women met two young men in a place which was the worst in town? A. I said disorderly house—not a house of ill-fame. Q. If you thought that house had the worst reputation as a disorderly house of any in town, and you catch two married women meeting young men there—A. I said in my examination in chief, that I believed this house was then, and had been for several years back, a house where liquor was sold without a license, and where whites and blacks congregated for the purpose of getting liquor, but that I had heard nothing as regards it being a house of ill-fame. Q. Didn't you say it had rows there? A. I said rows and fusses, and things of that sort; and she had been here once or twice for selling liquor, when I was satisfied, but did not have legal proof, that she was guilty. Q. Now then, without any proof of what was the nature of the disorder in the house, you fined this woman one hundred dollars? A. I did. Q. Without any knowledge of what was the disorder? A. Nothing but that it was a disorderly house. Q. What was the knowledge you had about the disorder? A. In that case. Q. Yes; you fined her in that case; what did you have? A. Her own admission that it was a disorderly house. Q. The woman confessing, and without any more proof before you, you put on her four times the fine you usually imposed; don't you know that you did it with the knowledge on your part that married women had met young men there? A. I can not say that. Q. Didn't you have the proof before you? A. In the Conway case. Q. Didn't that show to you that it was a house in which people met for immoral purposes. A. There was no proof of keeping an immoral house. Q. Is it not proof to a Justice, when a house having the reputation of being one of the worst disorderly houses in town, where whites and blacks, men and women meet, and where they have rows and fusses—and where you catch two married women in there with two young men—when you fine her one hundred dollars don't you know you are fining her on the belief that those people met there for immoral purposes? A. I did not give it a thought that way. Q.

(Concluded in next issue)

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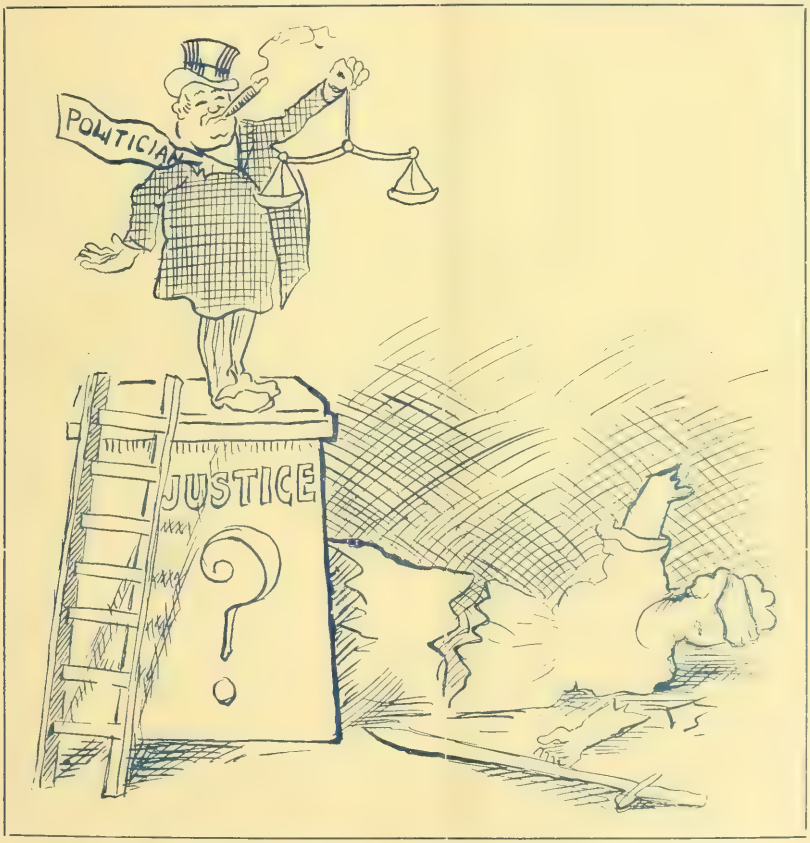
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THE IDEA

A SIGN OF THE TIMES

Vol. III December 25, 1909. No. 30



JUSTICE DETHRONED—Richmond Under Ring Rule

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THE IDEA

A Sign of the Times

VOL. III DECEMBER 25, 1909 NO. 30

5 CENTS A COPY $2.00 A YEAR

Published Weekly on Saturday by ADON A. YODER,
904 Capitol Street, Richmond, Va.

Entered as second class mail matter July 10, 1909 at the Post Office at Richmond, Va.

The Cunningham Matter and the Richmond Daily Papers.

Now that the Council Investigating Committee seems unwilling to do anything except whitewash the whole business of the collector's office, it is well to notice that the papers are risking an opinion about the matter by all joining in in mild editorials advising the removal of the collector. THE IDEA wonders why they did not join with this paper at the proper time and impress on the Mayor and the committee their duty to the people, instead of helping the finance committee cover the matter up. If it had not been for the firm stand for rigid law enforcement and publicity of the affairs of the people by this paper there, there is no doubt but that the papers would have succeeded in hushing this matter up, as has been their custom.

It looks rather weak and babyish, after attempting to hush the matter up and being compelled by public opinion to finally give the real facts, to come out when they see the way the wind of public opinion blows and change front entirely.

The trouble with the Richmond daily papers is that they "wear their wishbones where their backbones ought to be."

A little strength of character directing the policy of these papers would work untold good to the people of this community.

Richmonders, however, have every reason to rejoice over the fact that a real live daily newspaper will appear about the first of the year, and it is earnestly hoped that the good people of the city will subscribe on the very start and make this paper a howling success. Richmond is a fine city and deserves at least one genuine, fine newspaper.

Despotic Government

The old Virginia Bill of Rights, which is Article I of the present as well as of all past, Constitutions of this State, says:

SEC. 12. "That the freedom of the press is one of the great bulwarks of liberty and *can never be restrained* but by despotic governments."

Notice that the law does not simply state that the freedom of the press cannot be taken away. It is extremely emphatic and says "can never be *restrained,*" and yet it is very seriously restrained when a petty judge may sentence a man to jail for criticising a court after a farcical trial and state in giving his decision that such criticism "is bad enough upon anyone, but when it is aimed at the courts it is outrageous."

THE IDEA claims it is outrageous for the courts to think that they, the people's servants, are above criticism, and THE IDEA will continue to criticise any officials, the courts included, with the utmost disregard of this justice's opinion, or any other justice's opinion of his conduct. THE IDEA'S duty—not simply right, but sublime duty—is to criticise just as harshly as the occasion demands any decision of any judge whose acts are contrary to the principles of right and justice. If this be contempt of court, "make the most of it." If this be libel, "make the most of it."

As a matter of fact, THE IDEA would have no right, legal or moral, to criticise "anyone," but it does have that right in regard to public officials, and just as soon as the courts, the hirelings of the people, get so rotten as to suppress the people in their unalienable rights of discussion of the acts of these courts, then it will be time to send for the undertaker to bury our republican form of government.

If the court had fined the editor only one cent he would have taken an appeal to a higher court, as he feels it a duty to the people of Richmond, after having undertaken a fight in their name, to see it through to a finish. Of course, it would be cheaper to pay the fine, for it costs to employ lawyers; yet it is the principle of the freedom of the press for which we are contending, and it would be a blot on the name of Richmond to have it said that a Richmond paper had to submit to such restraints as a little police magistrate might choose to impose.

THE IDEA will show these petty officials that they are not lords of the people, but simply servants of the people, and that the people may at all times discuss as they see fit the acts of their servants whom they employ to do their public work.

Corrupt Alliance

Mr. Harry Smith, of counsel for the prosecution, laid much stress on the fact that THE IDEA charged "a corrupt alliance" between the criminal element and the police department, and tried to make out from that that we had charged Justice John with receiving money for the protection of criminals.

Any one could read the article and see that no such charge was made, and it is a commentary on the desperate condition of the prosecution that they had to go so far afield. They even got hold of a subsequent number of THE IDEA to prove by a cartoon what we meant by the word "corrupt," and Mr. Harry Smith was so sharp a handler of words that he even fooled his own associate, Mr. Folkes, into thinking we had used the word corrupt on the cartoon in question, for Mr. Folkes was making a tremendous argument on the word corrupt and turned to the cartoon to show our meaning of it, when to his amazement he found something else, namely: "Police Commission Graft" on the cartoon.

There could be the rankest kind of police commission graft without making the charge that Justice John got money for protecting crime.

We will reiterate for Mr. Harry Smith's delectation that there still exists a "corrupt alliance" between the houses of ill fame and the police department.

The Virginia Law on Libel

The prosecution in the recent libel case tried to make the justice, who evidently knew nothing about law, for this was his first experience on the bench, believe that the law on libel in Virginia was not clearly defined, and the attorneys themselves actually seemed to be ignorant of the fact that there is a very clear and distinct law in Virginia, for they began to cite the New Jersey libel law and the Kentucky libel law and the English libel laws and almost everything else except the Virginia law. Why, they actually had a porter bring three stacks of heavy law books tied up with ropes into the court. Think of it—Messrs. Manning and Gordon were so desperate that they got seven lawyers and a whole library of law books, while the defense needed only two lawyers (either one of which, however, would outweigh their seven), and one law book; but remember that one law book was enough to confound them, although it did not in the police court serve to change the predetermined verdict of the justice. It happened that the alleged offense occurred right here in Virginia and it happens that the Richmond police court is under the supervision of Virginia law only; and now read what the Virginia law is on the subject and notice what the Supreme Court said of it just two years ago. What follows is found in 106 Va. Reports, *Gatewood* v. *Garrett,* on appeal from the Circuit Court of King William County:

"This action was brought by James L. Garrett to recover of the defendant, W. K. Gatewood, damages for the alleged use by him of certain words, charged by the plaintiff to have been slanderous, and to have affected him injuriously in the position of policeman, which was then held by him in the town of West Point.

The declaration names three persons, one of them the mayor of the town, in whose presence the words complained of were uttered. The gravamen of the complaint is that the plaintiff lost his position as policeman by reason of the words alleged to have been spoken by the defendant. The words complained of are stated in the declaration to be as follows: That the defendant

in speaking of the plaintiff said, 'He is no account'; 'He is always at home asleep'; 'I am prepared to prove it'; 'There is something rotten about it.'

"These words are not, in themselves, actionable. To become so, *it must be shown that they were uttered with a malicious purpose to injure the plaintiff in connection with his office of policeman.* This is *not controverted.*

No. 1.

" 'If the jury believe from the evidence that the defendant spoke the words, or any of them, as charged in the declaration, of and concerning the plaintiff, yet *the presumption of law is that he spoke them honestly,* believing in the truth of his statement, *although* such statements in fact were false or founded upon the most erroneous information; and, in order for the plaintiff to recover in this action, *the burden is upon him* to prove to your satisfaction that such statements were spoken *with actual malice in fact* towards the defendant.' "

This is Instruction I, and the Supreme Court says:

"It is not denied that this is a correct statement of the law. The occasion was privileged, and to make the defendant liable, he must be shown to have misused the occasion to gratify his malice; the presumption being *that he believed the statement to be true.*"

"The second instruction asked for by the defendant and refused was as follows:

No. 2.

" 'The court instructs the jury that the conduct of public officers *is open to public criticism,* and it is for the interest of society that their acts may be fully published with fitting comments or strictures, and that whoever fills a public office renders himself open to public discussion, and if any of his acts are wrong he must accept the attack as a necessary, though unpleasant, circumstance attaching to his position. *It is not only the right but the duty* of a citizen to make complaint of any misconduct on the part of officials to those charged with supervision over them, and *their right and privilege* to *discuss the fitness or misconduct of such officials with tax payers in the town in which they live.*' And the court says:

"This instruction is in harmony with the spirit of our in-

stitutions, and *correctly states the law.* Odgers on Libel and Slander, page 40; Townsend on Libel and Slander, section 254; Newell on Libel and Slander, chapter 17, section 101, pages 504, 505.

"For the error in refusing these two instructions asked for by the defendant the judgment of the Circuit Court must be reversed, the verdict of the jury set aside and the case remanded for a new trial."

So the Supreme Court marked the case "Reversed."

(106 Va. 552.)

Contributions to the Defense Fund

Rev. Tilden Scherer, who as chairman of the committee of citizens interested in providing funds for the proper defense of the editor of this paper in the various litigations now pending in the courts, desires to call attention to the fact that contributions sent to him at Ginter Park, Richmond, Va., will be quickly acknowledged.

Men in the various establishments of the city have interested themselves in the fight and contributions have been taken among the employees in the shops and factories, the men of the C. & O. shops alone having contributed $24.20 to the cause. It is stated that 90 per cent. of the men whose names were subscribed to the list of contributors are voters and that they desire to have it known that the voters are determined to see not only that this paper does not lack for funds for proper legal protection, but also that the men who are responsible for evil conditions in Richmond shall give an account of their stewardship at the coming elections. Those desiring to contribute may communicate with Mr. Scherer by phoning Madison 2686 or Madison 965-J.

So Mr. Alfred Williams is going "all the way" to Roanoke to edit a paper. How utterly unpardonable, if one is to adopt the standard he himself has set in denouncing the editor of this paper for coming here "all the way from Lynchburg." We would modestly call Mr. Williams' attention to the fact that

Roanoke is about fifty miles farther from Richmond than Richmond is from Lynchburg. It is a poor rule that don't work both ways.

Notice this, too, that Mr. Williams is going there as the hired editor of a paper of which he does not own even a half interest, while the editor of THE IDEA is the sole owner, editor and publisher of this paper, so much condemned because its object is "the common good."

We suppose it is entirely pardonable to go anywhere to edit a paper if the motive be purely a commercial one. But all sarcasm aside, let this big fact be remembered, that the pastors of the Richmond churches are almost without exception not natives of Richmond, and many of them are from other and distant States. They are, however, none the less welcome to Richmond. It would indeed be a sad state of affairs if anyone had to be a native before he could manifest any interest he might have in the moral welfare of the community in which he happened to dwell.

Crutchfield Had Evidence--Should Have Issued Bench Warrant

FAILS TO SHOW ANY REASON FOR GIVING THE MALLOY WOMAN A LIGHTER SENTENCE THAN THE OTHER KEEPER OF A SIMILAR DISORDERLY HOUSE—THE IDEA JUSTIFIED.

CROSS EXAMINATION (continued).

Q. By Mr. Meredith:

Q. Is it not proof to a justice, when a house having the reputation of being one of the worst disorderly houses in town, where whites and blacks, men and women meet, and where they have rows and fusses—and where you catch two married women in there with two young men—when you fine her $100 don't you know you are fining her on the belief that those people met there

for immoral purposes? A. I did not give it a thought that way. Q. Isn't it proof of it? A. Of what? Q. That it was an immoral house? A. Mr. Meredith, as far as those women were concerned, I was not taking much stock in them. Q. I do not ask you to hold them up as Christian characters. Were you not satisfied they were there for immoral purposes? A. I thought when those women admitted what they had been doing, in going down to a place like that, it was a very disorderly place. Q. And that they were women of loose fame? A. And for that reason, and knowing that house by reputation as I did, I put that penalty of one hundred dollars on her. Q. And yet you had her up on two charges—one of selling liquor, and had acquitted her on that; and then you had proof before you, and knowledge on your own part of its being one of the worst places in town—you had proof that she had two married women in there, who were getting liquor, with two young men;; and you fined the other woman $100 and thirty days in jail, and this woman, on two charges, with all this proof before you, you only fined $100. A. I did exactly that; but I want to tell you another thing, I had a heap stronger proof against Maggie Lee than against Sophie Malloy. I proved the reputation of that house, and that she had holloed across the yard, "You'll have to take this couple in, because I'm full." Q. Do you say that is a higher class of proof to any man of common sense, than the fact that two married women go down to the worst house in town with two young men— A. Met them there. Q. Well, that is the same thing—which is the higher class? A. Well, I require convincing testimony when I convict. The testimony did not justify me in convicting that woman of selling liquor; and everybody knows that my record is good on whiskey selling. Q. I am discussing the facts of this particular transaction; that whatever may have been the charge—whatever may have been your previous knowledge—the fact was that you regarded this house, and had for some time, as the worst house in town— A. One of the worst in town. Q. As a place where illicit liquor was sold? A. Yes, sir. Q. Where white and colored men and women congregated? A. Yes, sir. Q. And that two white women had been up before you just a short time before—or that day—I don't know which, for meeting two young men down there—and you did not think it was a house of ill-fame! What

did you think? A. That it was a disorderly house. I had no proof of its being a house of ill-fame, and no jury on earth would have sustained me in such a decision. Q. Well, there is no telling what a jury might do. A. I know--they are very doubtful. Q. I am just asking you what you thought? A. Well, I am giving you the best I have in shop. Q. With your knowledge that this was one of the worst houses in town—A. That is my belief. Q. You got your information from the police court? A. And from cases I tried against her. Q. She had been here before? A. Yes, sir. Q. How often? A. I don't know; I had convicted her, and she had been before me once or twice when I thought she ought to be convicted, but I could not prove it on her exactly. Q. How many times have you convicted her? A. I could not tell you. Then her mother was up here. Q. Well, I don't care about her. A. I say, her mother was brought here oftener than she was; but whenever she would come Mr. Smith would sometimes be with her.

Mr. Smith: That was years ago. I haven't defended her since her mother's death.

Q. The fact is that with that knowledge on your part, and the additional fact that it had been proven before you that two married women met young men down there, you did not think it was a house of ill-fame? A. She was not charged with keeping a house of ill-fame; I could have amended it, and would have done so as quick as lightning, with the proof; I had the power to do it, there is no doubt about that; but I did not think the evidence justified it. Q. Have you ever heard of Sophie Malloy's general reputation? A. Yes, sir. Q. As a loose woman? A. Yes, sir. Q. Did you ever have any suspicion that she kept a house of ill-fame? A. I did not say that I did not have a suspicion of it. Q. A common woman herself? A. I don't know whether she was, or not; I had heard rumors—I had heard some very bad things about Sophie Malloy. Q. What did you hear? A. I had heard that she was a very loose woman herself. Q. To what extent? A. In staying with men. Q. White or colored? A. Colored. Q. With keeping such a character of house, you left her off with an hundred dollars fine? A. Yes, sir. But I want to say that when I had these women here I only put a fine of twenty dollars on them—women from Mayo street—sometime ago. Q.

That is in the "red light" district, is it not. A. So they say; I have not been down there. The Police Board and I have not been going on so well for the last year or two, and I am not having much to say to those fellows.

By Mr. Smith:

Q. Is it not a fact that Sophie Malloy's mother lived with her up to within a very few years ago. A. Yes, sir. Q. Had you any right to suspect anything of the sort as long as her mother was alive—that it was a house of ill-fame? A. I heard while her mother was alive, what I told you just now.

Captain Barfoot Testifies

WOMAN CHARGED WITH KEEPING A HOUSE OF ILL-FAME BEFORE, BUT WARRANT NEVER SERVED.

IF GUILTY WOULD SIMPLY "TAKE HER PICTURE."

Q. Captain, did you swear out the warrant in this case, upon which she was fined one hundred dollars? A. Yes, sir. Q. What did you swear it out for? A. On evidence given before the coroner's jury. Q. I say what was the charge? A. One charge was for selling liquor, and one for keeping a disorderly house. Q. Why did you swear out a warrant charging her with keeping a disorderly house, instead of a house of ill-fame? A. Well, I thought I could prove it by claiming that people got liquor there, and these women meeting men there, and I swore out the warrant for keeping a disorderly house. Q. Why didn't you swear it out for keeping a house of ill-fame? A. Well, because I didn't have any evidence to prove it. Q. Had you been watching that house? A. I had, sir. Q. How long? A. I have been watching that house my whole time since I have been Captain, for selling liquor. Q. When did you first hear or suspect that she was keeping a house of ill-fame? A. Well, to the best of my knowledge, may be six or eight months ago, may be longer—it might be a little longer. Q. Before that time you did not suspect her of keeping a house of ill-fame? A. No, sir. Q. What did you do

when you began to suspect her of keeping a house of ill-fame? Did you protect her in it, or try to break her up? A. No, sir, I gave orders to the whole night relief—which meets at seven o'clock—notified them of this fact, about this disorderly fact—and gave orders to every man to keep a strict watch on this house.

By Mr. Meredith:

Q. When was that order given—after the Coroner's inquest? A. No, sir; that was several months ago.

By Mr. Smith:

Q. You said six or eight months ago? A. Yes, sir. Q. You notified them that you suspected her of keeping a house of ill-fame—assignation house? A. Yes, sir, we heard that. Q. What did you do when you heard it? A. Well, we had the officers on that beat watch the house, and we swore out a warrant. Q. For what. A. Charging her with keeping a disorderly house; I believe Sergeant Sowell swore out the warrant. Q. For keeping a disorderly house? A. Yes, sir. Q. Have you got the warrant? See if it wasn't sworn out charging her with keeping a house of ill-fame. A. Yes, sir; I think it was. I think that warrant was sworn out March 27th. Q. (Reads) "Whereas, R. B. Sowell has this day made complaint that in the last ten months past, 1909, at said city, Sophie Malloy did unlawfully keep and maintain a certain house of ill-fame at No. 2224 East Main Street, resorted to by divers persons, both male and female, for purposes of prostitution and lewdness"—that was sworn out on the 22nd day of March. What did you do with that warrant? A. Sergeant Sowell and three other officers—I have got them on the back of the warrant, I think—went there to execute this warrant, and found no one there but Sophie Malloy and her sister and a servant, and three beds; and they did not execute the warrant, or even let them know they had a warrant for her—just looked the house over and walked out. Q. Have you been able to prove by the general reputation of the neighbors that she kept a house of ill-fame? A. No, sir. I had Officer Duffy, in citizens' clothes, for several days trying to get information. Q. You did then as early as March swear out a warrant charging her with keeping a house of ill-fame; have you kept the house under constant watch? A. Yes, sir. Q. Have you any disposition, or your

officers, so far as you know, to protect her in any way, shape or form? A. No, sir. Q. You state that since the 27th day of March you have kept this house under watch, to try and prove a case against her of keeping a house of ill-fame? A. Yes, sir; the warrant has been kept in my desk. Q. And the police have been notified to keep on the watch-out? A. Yes, sir.

CROSS-EXAMINATION.

By Mr. Meredith:

Q. Captain, as I understand, the Sergeant of the police force had sufficient information to lead him to make oath to the fact that the woman kept a house of ill-fame, and the warrant was never served; is that so? A. No, sir, he did not have sufficient information. Q. Then why did he swear to it for. A. That was on information received. Q. He was justified, he thought, in making oath, that upon information he had received this woman kept a house of ill-fame? A. Yes, sir. Q. And that warrant was pocketed? A. Yes, sir; that is what it was sworn out on—on general reputation and rumors, and we tried to execute it on this night. Q. When a man swears to a things on information he believes the information, don't he? A. Yes, sir. Q. And a police officer ought to know whether it was reasonable information, ought he not? And Sowell is a man of sense, is he not? A. Yes, sir. Q. And knows his duty? A. Yes, sir. Q. And yet you pocketed the warrant? A. Yes, sir. Q. Why? A. Because we did not find anything that would justify us in executing the warrant. Q. How often do you go in a house and find anything? A. Well, if we had found any women there who had no business there, the warrant would have been executed. Q. So when you went in there you found no women? A. No, sir. Q. How many times did you go in? A. Several times. Q. Since when? A. I can't say—but since I have been Captain of that district. Q. When was the first time you went in there? A. I could not tell you that. Q. About how long ago? A. May be twelve or fifteen months ago. Q. What did you go in there for? A. Looking around to see what we could see. Q. To see if she kept a house of ill-fame? A. No, sir, to see if she was selling liquor. Q. Did you ever hear of Sophie Malloy before the last eight or twelve months? A. Oh, yes; heard of the Malloy family.

Q. Did you ever hear of Sophie? A. Yes, sir; but not before I came down there. Q. That was about three years ago; then for nearly three years you have heard of her? A. Yes, sir. Q. What was her reputation? A. Fast woman; since this trial. Q. Since which trial? A. The Conway trial. Q. Here is a white woman, whose reputation the Justice spoke of, and you speak of it—of having illicit intercourse with colored men, and a Sergeant of the police force thinks he has information enough to justify him in putting his oath to a warrant to arrest the woman, and it appears that this warrant has been kept in your pocket since the 27th day of March? A. Yes, sir.

Mr. Smith: He said kept in the drawer—in the desk.

Mr. Meredith: Well, it has been pigeon-holed since the 27th day of March.

Witness: Yes, sir.

Q. If you had found five or six beds in there what would you have done? A. Well, if there hadn't been anybody in them we would not have done anything. Q. You didn't expect to find anyone in them, did you? A. Yes, sir. Q. Don't you know that the proof as to a house of ill-fame is the character of the people you see going in there? If you see married women going into a place where whiskey is sold, and meeting young men, you have the right to presume that it is a house of ill-fame? A. I did not see them at that time; never heard of it until after the Conway trial. Q. You don't know on what Sergeant Sowell based his oath, do you? A. No, sir. Q. Now I will ask you; don't you know where whore houses are in this town, and that pictures are gotten of the inmates, and they can be located in ten minutes? A. Yes, sir. Q. If then you had found anything in Sophie Malloy's house, what would you have done, taken her picture? A. No, sir. Q. Why would you have treated her differently from anyone else—other whores you know of? A. Because I do not know of my own knowledge she was a whore. Q. But if you became acquainted with that fact, would you treat her any different from the other whores you have pictures of? A. I would not treat her different. Q. The others are not arrested, are they? A. No. Q. Then why arrest her? A. Because of some complaint. Q. What would have been the complaint if the Sergeant did not know of anything at all to justify you in

executing the warrant? A. On information he received he swore out the warrant. Q. So if you had found out that she was keeping a house of ill-fame you would have treated her the same way as the other women, would you? A. No—what do you mean—take her picture? Q. You say you know where the whores have their places? A. Yes, sir. Q. You have their pictures, and their location; now if that be a fact, what were you going to do to Sophie Malloy, different from the others. A. It has never been proven that she kept a house of ill-fame. Q. Suppose it had been proven? A. We would have ordered her to have her picture taken. Q. And all that would have been done would be to take her picture? A. We would take her picture.

Amid much laughter witness stood aside.

Captain Sowell says had been a Bad House for about Two Years

By Mr. Meredith:

Q. I understand you made one raid and failed on it? A. Yes, sir. Q. And you have made no more raids since? A. No, sir. Q. And you had previous to the time you got this information heard that it was a house in which people met? A. Yes, sir, I had heard it, and had seen those negro men and women go in there; and I had seen white women go in there. Q. And you had your suspicion of its being a house of ill fame? A. Yes, sir, that is the reason I swore out the warrant. Q. How long had that been going on? A. Well, I reckon ten or eleven months—somewhere along there—two years this coming March. I think it had been going on eight to twelve months, somewhere in that neighborhood. Q. What size house is that? A. That house has about seven or eight rooms in it, I think, as well as I can remember now. Q. The white women that you saw go in there, were they of different ages? A. The only white woman I ever saw go in there was a woman that dressed in black, and she seemed to be about forty years old. Q. But you had heard that other white women went there? A. Yes, sir.

Witness here stood aside.

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